

BLK

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RUPAUL: GAG ON THE GLAMOUR

North Pole →

NEWS
WORD UP
PEOPLE
MUSIC
CARTOONS
BLK TEA
CLASSIFIEDS



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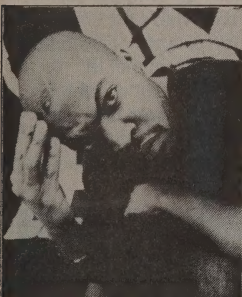
WORD UP

By Leon Miller

Will the Real Ice Cube Please Stand Up?

Will the real Ice Cube please stand up?

In a recent *Details* interview, rapmeister Ice Cube expounds at length about the line "true niggas ain't gay" from his latest *Death Certificate*, claiming he's



been misunderstood. Asked by interviewer William Shaw if he knows any gay men, Ice said, "I don't know and don't associate with people that's, uh, you know, that's gay. And that ain't because they're gay and I don't want to be hanging with them."

When Shaw suggested gay acquaintances might not be comfortable coming out to him, Ice countered, "That's on them I don't, uh, agree with being gay because gay people can't reproduce. But if gay people want to have fun and do what they want to do, that's on them."

Is this the same Ice Cube that recently donat-

ed \$25,000 to L.A.'s Minority AIDS Project for outreach to black gay men, and who has appeared in gay positive advertising in *BLK*?

Court Cancels Charger Charges

San Diego Chargers center Courtney Hall was fined \$360 and ordered to undergo private AIDS counseling after being cited for using offensive language.

Additional charges filed against Hall for engaging in lewd conduct and prostitution were dismissed after his misdemeanor guilty plea was accepted.

Police had found Hall, 23, inside a parked car with Charles Thompson, 26, who at the time was dressed in women's clothing.

Homoeroticism on Cover of 'Emerge'?

The May 1993 cover of the black straight newsmagazine,

Emerge, depicts a black male teenager with pants down, jockeys showing and ass aloft. One white cop holds a vertical stick near the boy's rear end. The other cop holds handcuffs.

Is *Emerge* trying to attract the gay market with a little softcore porn spiced with *S&M* homoeroticism?

Probably not, but we

can hope, can't we? The photo was snapped by Fred Phillips during a real altercation for a serious story on cops and blacks.

University Destroys Insensitive Book

Back in 1988 the University of Kentucky was in the news when former governor A.B. Chandler remarked at a board of trustees on university investment in South Africa that "Zimbabwe is all nigger now. There aren't any whites."

Last year the school's Student Activities Board apologized for printing a

racially stereotyped line of the original lyrics of "My Old Kentucky Home" on a school datebook.

Publication of the line "This summer, the darkies are gay" so upset some students and campus officials that all the back covers were ordered destroyed, the books minus the covers were given away free and refunds were made available to those who had already bought copies. Things get better. But very very slowly.

British TV Hard on Soft Penises

The Independent Television Commission in Great Britain denied one of the





channels permission to air Dick, a 12-minute documentary composed on a thousand shots of soft-enden penises.

Gays, Blacks Target of Jokes

Blacks and gay men were the butts of jokes at a GOP dinner in ole Virginia earlier this year. The event, which honored former U.S. Representative Stan Parris, attracted such notables as Oliver North of Iran-Contra infamy and Charles Black, former chair of the Republican Party.

Not nice comments were made about lifting the ban on lesbians and gay men in the military and disparaging descriptions of D.C. were offered for its predominantly black population.

Virginia Republican leaders including State Senator Warren E. Barry, who complained of "fags in the foxhole," and Fairfax County party chair Patrick Mullins were among those listed as

having made offensive remarks.

Yes, Virginia, there is a black lesbian and gay community. And it's not at all pleased with your insanity cause.

Enlistment of Blacks to Disrupt Military

The close and intimate conditions of life aboard ship, the necessity for the highest possible degree of unity and esprit-de-corps; the requirement of morale—all these demand that nothing be done which may adversely affect the situation.

Past experience has shown irrefutably that their enlistment leads to disruptive and undermining conditions. It should be pointed out in this connection that one of the principal objectives of subversive agents in this country in attempting to break down existing efficient organizations is demanding participation for

minorities' in all aspects of defense, especially when such participation tends to disrupt present smooth working organizations."

The above is from a Dec. 24, 1941 Navy memorandum opposing the integration of "negroes" into all-white units. It most recently appeared in *Outlines*.

Vandross in a Mackie Dress?

Luther Vandross, the three-time Grammy winner with the velvety-smooth voice recently agreed to answer a series of "stupid questions" for *Entertainment Weekly*.

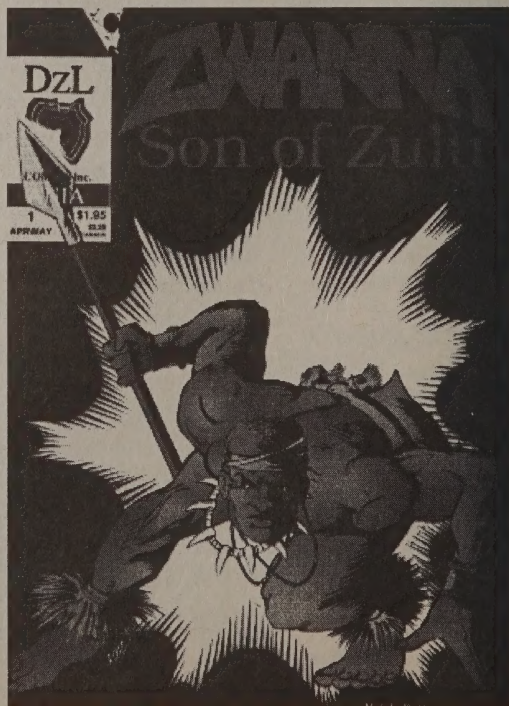
Responding to "What would it take to get you into a dress?" Vandross said, "A very talented and intense hypnotist. Or Bob Mackie. Whoever asked first."

Villains Want Pix of Hero's Butt

Although Zwanna: *Son of Zulu*, an Afrocentric comic book, concocts stereotypical white gay villains, it displays humor with its homophobia.

In this story about an African superhero disguised as a mild-mannered student, the running gag is the villains' obsession with Zwanna's butt. Early on, the head villain says, "Get me more pictures of him, especially of his butt!" Later, another says, "I wanna see his butt!" And when they finally get Zwanna cornered, what's the cry? "Get some pictures of his butt!"

Let's hope that in comics to come, creator Nabile P. Hage uses his considerable talents to butt-rest a better argument.





Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival is an Olympic-style sporting event open to all. More than 15,000 athletes and thousands of cultural participants are expected to participate in 31 team and individual sports. Gay Games IV will occur from June 18-25, 1994 in venues throughout New York City.

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Civil Responses to Florida Hate

I assume you printed the "letter" from Tom F. of Miami in its entirety [BLK, Oct. 1992]. How could anyone have "edited" that?

While I thought of many things, I was reminded of Ralph Wiley's *Why Black People Tend to Shout: Cold Facts and Wry Views from a Black Man's World*. In the chapter entitled "Why Black People Have No Culture," Wiley states, "Black people have no culture because most of it is out on loan to white people. With no interest." I guess this is just another example of "less being more."

Tayo Freer
Long Beach, Calif.

The white-supremacist hate rant sent in to you recently only underlies how much hate remains out there to be defeated. As a white bi-dyke, I'd like to denounce this diseased fascist thinking. I am appalled by this man's bigotry on behalf of a supposedly "civilized Euro-American" society.

We have a long way to go before anyone, particularly someone like Tom F., can claim that Euro-Americans are fully civilized

In the meantime, I thank you for printing the dim-witted ravings of this piece of trash. It's good to be aware of the drivel being spouted by Nazis like him, in order to better combat it.

Jimi H.
Boston, Mass.

I believe that Tom F. is suffering from a case of psychosis, racism and student-induced anxiety on the border of psychiatric neurosis. Tom obviously has become obsessed with one of his statistics classes at whatever college he may be attending which obviously distorts his perception of reality. Yet I must honorably congratulate you, BLK, for even printing this type of garbage in such a widely respected and acknowledged publication.

Point #1. We are proud to be African-Americans.

Point #2. Afrocentrism is real, highly respected in the black community and is authentic.

Point #3.

Your so called European ancestors went over to our motherland and stole my people and brought them back to cultivate your lands, and serve your economic needs. As a result of being in the fields picking cotton for chairs my ancestors never sat on and owned at that time, my people did not have the grand opportunity to attend school like your white kids

and ancestors' kids did. Try catching up in education for more than 200 years and you'll have a literacy problem, too.

Point #4. Your European sisters and brothers are not doing us a favor by allowing us to cohabit with you in America.

Point #5. Your own misery is caused by your psychosis and racist mentality. You probably don't understand why you are probably gay, and would like to express your anger on a race of people who you feel are more vulnerable than others. Look in the mirror, please.

Point #6. I have seen many of your European brothers and sisters hustling in public parks for my brothers who have fallen by the wayside and need a quick income which your so called intelligent white queens are more than happy to oblige. Most black men that I am familiar with have much more to offer than (muscles) and "lust." You just have not looked beyond the old stereotypical XXX movies and dealt with a real black brother on a intellectual basis after your European white brothers needs were met. I'm sure the conversation on the brother's intellect would possibly overwhelm you if you looked beyond his prowess and penis. You probably need to wonder why white women ask for your tongues, but they ask for my black brothers for complete satisfaction. Please don't try to measure up to the brothers, you'll always come up short, physically and intellectually.

Lastly, check our your resources before you open your mouth and you'll find that 90 percent of your most recent discoveries are stereotypical biased scaretics, and not factual, professional statistics.

Kervin Fondren
Birmingham, Ala.

I disagree with Mr. Tom E.'s statement that blacks should have to be grateful to be in America. Not much more so than any other group. Blacks are an integral part of Ameri-



"It was just a nightmare. But you are going to have to face the fact that our baby might be straight."

can history. But blacks must be come more American and less African.

Stop saying that things don't come your way because you're black. And, don't think blacks are entitled to something extra because of the wrongs done 400 years ago. Blacks have to be competitive. You must show America that your brain cells are as good as, if not better than, the next guy's.

If you are to live a good life in America, be American. Fight for what's yours not because of the color of your skin but because you're American. You're entitled to a better life because you earned it, not because you were brought here against your will. You deserve a better life because you helped make this country a better place. Blacks died to keep this country free. Be proud to be an American.

*Jorge L. Rodriguez,
Corona-Elmhurst, N.Y.*

Rather than stoop to Tom F.'s level, I would like to paraphrase the great George Washington Carver, "No matter what a man does to me, I will never allow him to bring me low enough to hate him." And by the way, I'm not black and I'm also not ignorant.

*William Ellzey III
New Orleans, La.*

Joe Simmons, Part 4

I would like to respond to the implied black gay separatism of the letter by Terrence McCreight in BLK #37. The core of his letter is that porn stars like Joe Simmons who have unsafe sex on video, and gay black men who date white men, are the same because they lack self-esteem and are easily manipulated by their white counterparts.

That's quite a stretch, comparing a man who is paid to have sex on video, with black gay men who freely choose to date white men, when one is implicitly a kind of prostitution, while the other is not.

If a black gay man has low self-esteem, why wouldn't another black man manipulate him just as easily as a white man, due to their shared cultural heritage? Also, why did he not mention black gay men with high

self-esteem who date white men?

As far as Joe Simmons is concerned, if he or any other porn star is having unsafe sex, the solution is simple. Stop buying or renting his videos. When producers see consumers are not buying or renting his videos, Mr. (Tom) Simmons will have to get a regular job, where I presume he will keep his clothes on.

*R.L.M., Jr.
Dallas, Tex.*

While I largely agree with Terrence McCreight's perception of black and/or interracial all-male video, his attack on Joe Simmons is misplaced. His perception of black men who date or have dated white men (regardless of their preference) is also too broad and stereotypical—the same fault of which those that control the pornography industry are guilty.

Videos are a product. They are created, distributed and sold according to demand. These interracial or all-men-of-color videos are directed to white men, for white men, and created by white men.

Wouldn't it be a decent idea to present a "black" gay male as just like everyone else? I think so. Selling that idea is a job for me, you, the reader and Mr. McCreight. However, cooperation must also come from the industry and the film makers. Although black Americans are making more films, they typically follow a specific pattern. As long as black Americans fall into the trap as well, it is a little bit too much to point fingers at white Americans.

I agree that despite the racial overtones, unprotected sex is frightening and abhorrent in this day and age. But I would like Mr. McCreight to explain why from this it follows that minority gay males and females should therefore not date anyone outside of their race?

*Duane Billingslea
Columbus, Ohio*

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ON THE COVER: RuPaul. Photo by Mark Contratto.

BLK PEOPLE

PHILADELPHIA

Sallyann Bowman, M.D. is on the board of directors of the Lesbian Health Foundation funded by the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights. She also coordinated the recent Lesbian Physicians Conference held in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON

Keith Boykin has been named special assistant to President Bill Clinton and director of news analysis in the Office of Communications at the White House.

CHICAGO

Activist Vernitia Gray is the new Gay and Lesbian Victim-Witness coordinator for the Cook County State Attorney's office.

WASHINGTON

Ivy Young, former head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Families Project has taken over as director of the annual Creating Change Conference for the NGLTF.

PHILADELPHIA

Herbert Evans has become the newest pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church. He is the only African-American man pastoring an MCC in North America.

WASHINGTON

Khadija Haynes has been elected to the Victory Fund's board of directors.

SAN FRANCISCO

Marvin K. White is the newest member of the performance troupe Pomo Afro Homos.

CHICAGO

Filmmakers Natalie Hutchison and Mary Morten have produced *The Nia Project*, a video project which documents

the lives of African-American lesbians.

PORTLAND

Emmally Williams-Mitchell has been named executive director of the Oregon Minority AIDS Coalition.

WASHINGTON

Henry Lewis III, Ph.D. has been appointed to the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council.

NEW ORLEANS

Larry Bagneris, currently the director of community affairs for the New Orleans AIDS Task Force, is in the 1994 race for a seat on the New Orleans City Council.

SAN DIEGO

Stan Lewis has been named chief of staff to Sixth District City Council member Valerie Stallings.

BOSTON

The Log Cabin Federation, the national gay Republican organization elected Abner Mason its president at the group's annual convention in Philadelphia in August.

ATLANTA

Tonia C. Poteat, a volunteer coordinator at Project Open Hand, is the 1993 recipient of the Pat Hoben Memorial Scholarship, given by Fourth Tuesday, a lesbian business and professional organization.

JOHANNESBURG

Tseko Simon Nkoli has been named chairperson of the Gay People's Health

Forum, a new organization dedicated to the education, counseling and support of the lesbian and gay community of color.

NEW ORLEANS

Marlon Riggs was honored for *Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien (No Regrets)*, as Best Cultural Affairs Documentary, and received the coveted Oscar Micheaux award for his contributions to the film/video industry.

ST. PAUL/MINNEAPOLIS

Poet Elaine Shelly has become a mentor for the Intermedia Arts mentor program.

NEW YORK

Bill T. Jones, dancer/choreographer was a recipient of the 36th annual International Dance Magazine Awards.

WASHINGTON

Sabrina Sojourner became the first black lesbian to be elected to the District's Democratic State Committee.

LOS ANGELES

Jewel and Rue Thais-Williams were presented the Human Rights Award by the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. The couple founded Rue's House, the country's first shelter for HIV+ women and children.

SAN FRANCISCO

Stephanie Smith has been appointed Lesbian of Color Project Coordinator at the National Center for Lesbian Rights.



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— Bay Area Reporter

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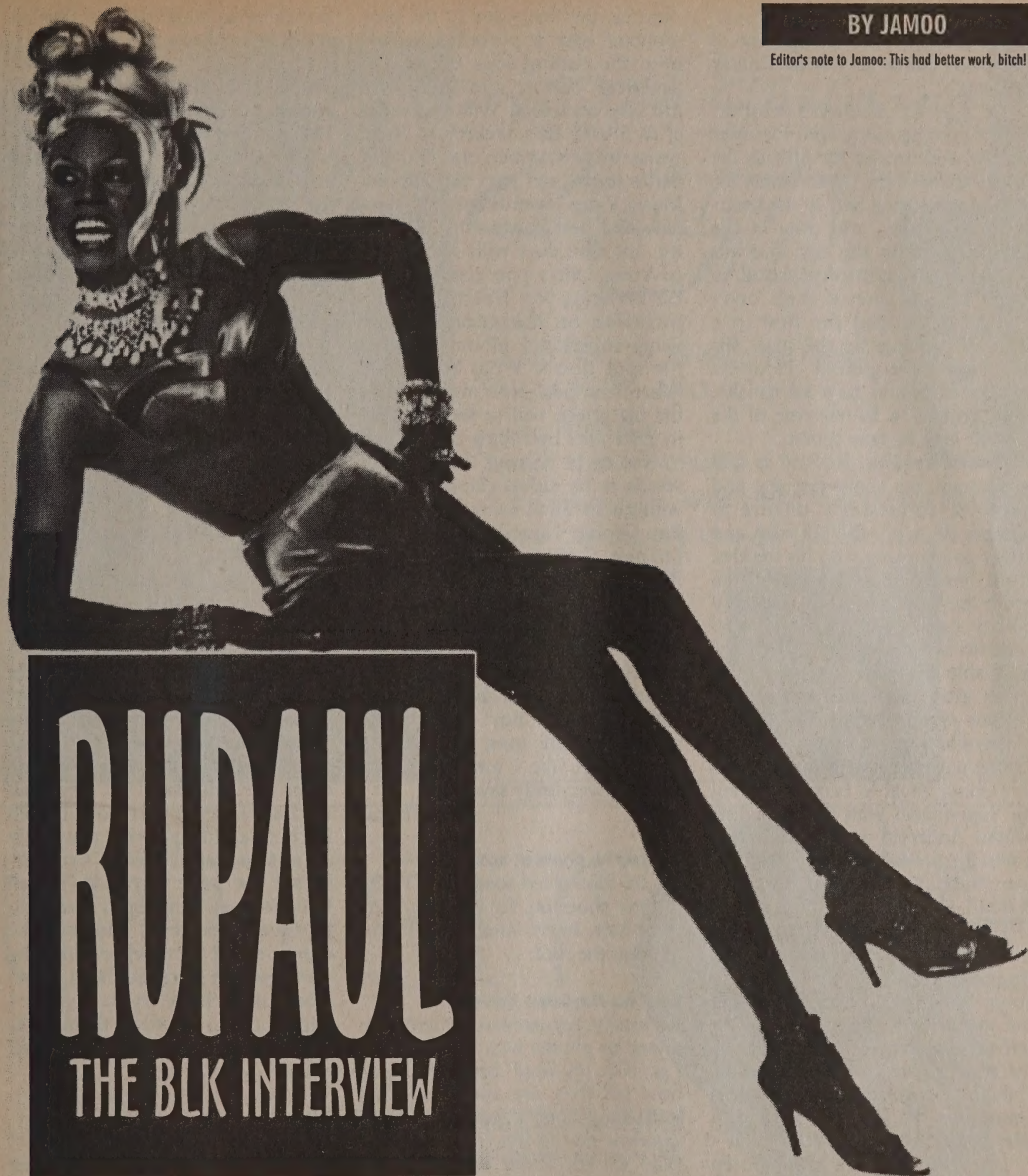
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RUPAUL

THE BLK INTERVIEW

A little over a year ago, a six-foot five black, blonde drag goddess blasted onto the *Billboard* dance chart atop a hit homage to the glamorous girls on the runway. With "Supermodel" as his ticket, RuPaul has travelled through a score of mainstream publications like *The New York Times*,

Vanity Fair, *Esquire*, *Newsweek* and *The New Yorker*. On television, he has taken rides on BET, MTV, CNN, CBS, *Joan*, *Geraldo*, *Arsenio* and is the subject of an upcoming profile on *NBC Now* with Tom Brokaw. As a result of shrewd marketing tactics employed by his management and record company, RuPaul has become drag's fierce reigning diva. With the rise of RuPaul, packaging a

product and selling it to middle America has taken on a whole new meaning.

RuPaul Andre Charles wasn't always 6'5", nor has he always been in a dress. Born and raised in San Diego, the only boy with three sisters, RuPaul at the age of five found himself in his mother's bedroom trying on an outfit and singing along with Diana Ross on the radio.

"I especially loved Diana Ross," recalls RuPaul, "she's the epitome of the poor black girl who finally makes it."

At age 15, RuPaul's mother packed him up along with his sister Renetta, and headed for Atlanta, the Drag Capitol of the USA. Atlanta for RuPaul was doing hair in the beauty shop by day, and drag in the bars at night. In the city that has always been rightfully proud to claim him as one of their own, RuPaul developed the first in a series of personas for the stage. His first look, underground characters he created would now be considered "grunge," a far extreme of the big hair look he now sports.

Out of sequins, RuPaul is still gargantuan, but somewhat shy and nervous; surprisingly unsure of himself. He is a well-built man and rather goodlooking with his freckles, child-like smile and what down south they call "good color." With a jaunty cap covering his shaved head (to accommodate the big hair), he is able to slip out for a few precious moments of simple peace. Outside of his persona, RuPaul can go anywhere, do anything.

Inevitably it's time to start the three-hour ritual to become RuPaul the Supermodel, with trusted stylists Mathu Andersen and Zaldy assisting in the process. There's a spiritual transformation that comes over RuPaul with the wigs, heels and sequins. An assuredness comes over her, she is calm, in control and emanates cool. There's something about having your chin six feet off the ground that seems to bolster self-esteem. When she glides onto the stage in her confident way, the children recognize the shaman-like connection. It's like she becomes a fairy godmother for the 90s.

Life may not have always been good to our Miss Ru, but he's smelling the roses now. In an odd twist of life imitating art, the magazine covers in the "Supermodel" video that show RuPaul's rise to fame have now been surpassed by the very real media (including this magazine) that clamor for him. RuPaul set out to prove that even a drag queen can conquer America if she gives 200 percent and it worked.

After circling the country working virtually every gay club in

America, the first wave of the promotional assault propelled RuPaul onto the cutting edge of popular American culture and the waves just keep on rolling. With *Supermodel of the World*, he's racked up three consecutive number one *Billboard* dance singles and won two *Billboard* Music Video Awards for both best new and best dance artist. There's the hot new duet with Elton John covering John's pop classic "Don't Go Breaking My Heart," and his inclusion on the *Addams Family Values* soundtrack album covering the soul classic "What You See Is What You Get." He's also tackling the big screen with a featured role in Spike Lee's upcoming *Crooklyn*.

Not to be missed this holiday season is *The RuPaul Christmas Special* with guests Elton John, Eartha Kitt, Boy George, Naomi Campbell and LaToya Jackson. Produced by Britain's Channel 4 for broadcast in the U.S., U.K. and Germany, the show's nativity scene finale features RuPaul warbling his version of the Christmas classic "The Little Drummer Boy." "I relate to 'The Little Drummer Boy' because the message of the song is to spread love. I feel like I am him," says RuPaul. Everybody say love.

—Don Thomas

So you're six-foot-seven?

I'm six-foot-seven sometimes. Without my shoes on, I'm six five. Then with hair, heels, and attitude I'm through the roof.

Like an Amazon queen.

It's totally Amazonian. When I see myself in photos with other people, I go, "Oh, my God!" because I know how tall they are and what they look like. When I see myself with someone else it's like crazy. I did the Joan Rivers Show and after my number she came out and gave me a hug. She stood next while we posed for pictures and she is the height of one of my legs with heels on. The top of her head comes up to my hip. It's so funny.

You're from San Diego, right?

I was born and raised in San Diego, but I'm really from Atlanta. I left San Diego when I was 14 years old and I went to high school in Atlanta. That's the age when a child is

becoming an adult, so I feel like I'm really from Atlanta.

You've said that you find a lot of racism outside of the South.

Oh, yeah. But I find that racism is more damaging on the West Coast and in northern regions because in the South people are more up front with it. If someone is a racist in the South, you know immediately how to deal with them. But elsewhere, they're sort of hidden. It's scarier because you can't really tell.

And you marched in defiance of the Klan?

Yeah...years ago...in drag. In the press kit, it says Birmingham, but it was actually Forsythe County, Georgia.

I heard about that. Where Oprah went.

Yes, that's it. At the exact same time.

Oh, God.

It was just a town. Most people really don't feel that way. People are people. People love other people. I looked over to the other side of the barricade between me and the National Guard. The people on the other side...you could tell they liked Michael Jackson just how I liked Michael...and they loved...you know...Captain Crunch with Crunchberries the same way I do. We all have feelings. Everybody wants to be loved, respected and feel like they belong somewhere. If they don't get that somehow from themselves, then they'll try to put other people down to make themselves feel bigger. You know what that's all about.

Right.

So I understand their ignorance. I understand their fear. But they just have to get over it...they really do. Everybody does. I've been discriminated against by gay people. I've been discriminated against by black people. I've been discriminated against by everybody and what it all boils down to is this: You have to learn how to love yourself.

Exactly.

Because if you don't love yourself, then you can't love anyone else. You can't give to anyone else.

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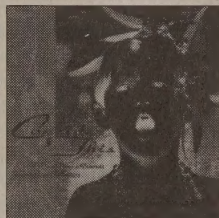
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Do you find greater acceptance as a black woman or as a black man?

I find that people are kinder to me when I'm in drag.

It's always been easier to deal with black women?

I'm not real a black woman, but somehow the fact that I'm in a castrated form, dressed up almost like a clown makes it somehow less threatening to them.

Right.

Whereas black men have been labeled a threat. People are afraid of black men, and I'll tell you why: Because black men are so goddamn angry.

Uh-huh!

Black men in our society have very little as far as the totem pole goes, so they have very little to lose. That's why they're scared. People are threatened by me in drag until I open my mouth and they realize I'm just like anybody else. I'm very accessible because I'm very familiar to people. They may be startled by the image, but it's funny 'cause I get to see life from this interesting perspective: First, in my Banana Republic drag, and then as this drag queen extravaganza. And in drag, people bend over backwards to try and accommodate me because everybody loves RuPaul. But the same people see me out of drag and treat me like shit.

Yeah.

It's an interesting perspective. It makes me realize how much importance people put on personal appearance. It makes me think about how much importance I put on personal appearance. And it makes me try to snap out of it. This is so cliché, but you can't judge a book by its cover, but at the same time you have to really feel a person out. You have to give every person an opportunity to be their

own person.

Is RuPaul a vain person?

Sure I am. I think everybody is. I mean RuPaul, the product, is...

That's a package.

RuPaul's a package. Sure I'm vain, and I feel a little guilty about that. But sure I am.

What's your favorite movie?

The Wizard Of Oz. I love the message of someone going through this life finally realizing that they had what they needed with them all along. They just needed to learn how to use it. That's so true. I love that. I love the movie for that reason. I tell people all the time, "You look at me on the stage, and who would have thought that a big old drag queen would be signed to a major record deal. Nobody would have. Nobody would have thought that."

Would RuPaul ever do *The Wiz*?

I would love to do *The Wiz*, but I think I would have to play the good witch, I don't think I could play the ingenue.

Well, if you had your own dream project, what would it be?

A television variety show that has a mixture of *Wheel of Fortune*, *The Cher Show*, *Saturday Night Live*, an infomercial and *The Home Shopping Club* all mixed into one. (laughs)

And only you could do it. Tell me about *Supermodel of the World*. When did you sign with Tommy Boy?

About a year ago, and they have been wonderful.

Weren't they a little skeptical at first?

No, they weren't. You know, after my reign as Queen of Manhattan, I decided to take time off and focus myself, get myself together and figure out what my next step would be and what I wanted to do. I hooked up with my partner Jimmy Harry and wrote songs like about 60 songs. From those we took the ten best and made a demo tape and sent it to all the labels with my image in tact. You know, big drag queen and all of that. The next day Tommy Boy called up and said,

"We're very interested. Let's have a meeting." And Monica Lynch later told me that she'd followed me through years and when she got the tape she was very skeptical. But she thought, "Hmmm. Well, let's put it on." And when she put it on, she was literally blown away. Ever since then, they've been with me 250 percent. You can't ask for more than that. They're behind the project and they're going to see it through. I love that.

How did LaWanda Page come into all this?

When I signed the deal and we started doing the record, I got to make a wish list of anybody in the whole wide world I'd want to be on my record. At the top of the list...

...was Aunt Esther.

...was Aunt Esther, honey, 'cause I've loved her for years. My mother had her comedy records around the house for a long, long time and I've always loved them. They're like triple X-rated. And I've been a fan of hers from Sanford and Son so it was a natural. She was a joy to work with. In fact, her comic timing and her delivery of lines was just perfection.

So it was like the icing on the cake.

It was icing on the cake. You know, my whole thing is a sassy talkin' thing and she's the queen of sassy talkin'.

You also did a film recently called *Inferno*. Has that come out yet?

No. I hear she's still editing it. But it was really fun filming it. I went to Italy last July and we filmed in Gallipoli. It was so fun. It was like a scene out of Mahogany, another of my favorite films. At one point, I have to take this Alfa Romero and drive into the shot where the camera is, the lights, everything. I have some dialogue with this guy. He's hitchhiking and he jumps into the car and I drive off all in one take. During the take there were about 400 people watching the filming. It was like the scene in Mahogany where they're driving the car and everything and it was the most fabulous moment of my life because it

was just like one of those famous moments that you'll never forget and we filmed it over and over again but having all the people watching me and stuff. (breathless) It was great! I can't wait to see it. There are a lot of top models in it, like Kate Moss, and Ava, and Susan Holmes, and Shayna all those girls.

Let's talk about Paris Is Burning.

I thought *Paris Is Burning* was great because it was a microcosm of the whole world. I say that because everybody wants to be respected. Everyone wants to be loved. Everybody wants to feel like they belong somewhere. This film showed that despite the fact that these people were considered outcasts in society, they had created their own society. They had found a place where they could be respected, loved, shine and be a star. That's what important about the film. It shows that the human desire to belong and to feel loved is stronger than any oppression anyone can put on you. You're going to shine, the star that you are, no matter what. And you'll find the situation to shine in. That's what I loved about the film. But I'll tell you, it's no different from any other mini-society. It's just like the social register of New York. All those people are the same. They want to feel like they belong somewhere. It's the same as the Crips and the Bloods. Those little groups of people who want to feel like they're part of a family. What's important about the film is that every person who watches it can relate to it on that level. Every person who watches it knows they are Avis Pendavis or Venus Extravaganza.

Or Dorian Corey...

Or Dorian Corey...everyone of them. You relate to each character.

How does RuPaul feel about being the queen of all of this? You're the one who made it.

I feel very blessed and very lucky. I feel honored that the power that created me put me in this position, and I'm gonna serve the children with that position. There have been others before me: Sylvester, Boy George, Flip Wilson, Divine and there will be more after me. But while I'm reigning, I will reign

supreme and I will serve the children. I will give them what I have and will be honest with myself. Actually, if I can be objective about it, who better to be queen of it all than RuPaul? RuPaul is accessible and is familiar and isn't shady and will actually share with people. RuPaul is a perfect queen.

So she deserves her throne.

Hello!

So what do you think your biggest inspiration has been?

My biggest inspiration has been the fact that I have something inside of me that's dying to get out—a burning desire that wants to speak to people, to say things to people. People have inspired me throughout my life. Divas like Diana Ross and Cher, Oprah Winfrey and Whoopi Goldberg—people who, despite adversity, have made it through. I've always been for the underdog. I always love a rags-to-riches story, so I'm inspired by people like that.

How did you come up with the name RuPaul?

My mother gave it to me. It's my real name.

Really?

Isn't that weird? My real name is actually RuPaul Andre Charles. I always joke with people, I say my mother either wanted me to get into show business or become a hairdresser. It's true. It's my real name. She's from southern Louisiana. There are French Canadian black people...Creole people down there. So she has a big French influence in her background.

If RuPaul were a hairdresser and could do anyone's hair, who would you do?

I'd want to do Diana Ross's hair. I'd want to do Vanessa Williams. I'd want to do Dolly Parton.

Dolly Parton? So you're into Big Hair.

I'm into Big Hair. But I'd wanna do Berry Gordy's hair even though he doesn't have any, just so I could be with him and talk to him. I'd wanna do Barry Gibb's hair, too. I love him, honey!

So who is RuPaul's ideal man?

My ideal man is...Matthew Modine.

Why?

Because he's so fine! He's got this loving, nurturing quality about him that's not overtly macho...a very kind demeanor and I love that about him. It's very sweet. Plus, he's very tall and I love that. He'll fit great with me although I know he's married and I've actually met his wife. But he is just it to me. I just love him.

If RuPaul got married, describe the ceremony to me.

It would be lavish. It would probably take place at the Rose Bowl. And it would be a gay extravaganza! I'd invite all the queens from all the major cities to come and be bridesmaids. It would be a three-day celebration.

And who'll sing?

Luther Vandross, honey!

Luthah!

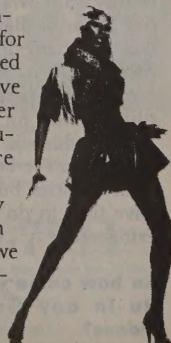
Luthah honey!, Luthah baby! I'd have him sing "Amazing Grace." You know that song?

Yes, of course.

Oh, I love that song! Oh, Luther! He just gets me crazy thinking about him.

How did you come about doing something with the Fabulous Pop Tarts?

I've been friends with them for years and years. They managed me. I knew that they had dealt with record companies before. And it takes someone who's been burnt to know how to deal with them...and they'd been burnt before. Two years ago when I decided to get my focus together, I went to them for advice. One thing led to another and we've been together ever since. They are fabulous and they are sharp! And they are hungry! They want it bad and I'm the same way, so we make a great combination.



Tell me about "The Return Of Starbooty." What's that all about?

Actually, this album started out to be that. Starbooty is a character I invented about five years ago. Starbooty was an ex-supermodel turned sort of vigilante crime fighter. Doer of good, helping people out.

And make them look beautiful too!

Yes! With a little Revlon. We started doing "Return of Starbooty" for this album a few years ago. As things went on, Larry, my old friend, said "You know Ru, you should do a song called "Supermodel." He gave me the idea for "Supermodel" which is sort of a prequel to "Starbooty." So he gave me a few lines and I went with my partner Jimmy Harry and wrote a song around it, and "Supermodel" was born, but it's a prequel to "Starbooty," which will be on the next album. This one is actually a feelgood record. It's the kinda record you put on before you go out to the disco...before you go out to do life. It's, "Let's party, let's have fun."

So what about your modeling career?

I don't model that much except for pictures and videos and stuff like that. It's so hard. I don't know how those girls do it. They deserve all the money they get. It's hard to concentrate and keep your focus and then turn on your energy. Turn it off. Turn it on. Turn it off.

Shanté, shanté.

Shanté, shanté, shanté! I model for my own thing and I do a lot of charity stuff with fashion shows. I did Suzanne Bartsch's Paris Love Ball and helped raise \$700,000 for people with AIDS. I felt very honored to be a part of that. I also did runway stuff for the Faith Organization, which is another AIDS organization. I've been approached by some agencies, but right now I don't have time to do my career and an extra career.

So how come we haven't seen Ru in any George Michael videos?

Because Miss Ru is too busy doing her own thing! I'd love to do all the children's videos, but I have to do my own. I think he's doing a good job using the queens because it's great that there is a queen visibility. The kids see options. That's the most important thing about my signing with Tommy Boy and being on MTV and BET. Young people see that there is a place for them, and that the place is somewhere you invent for yourself. You write your own ticket. The mere fact that I'm out there is a political statement. It says you don't have to conform to what your parents want or what society wants you to do. You don't have to do what I'm doing, but there are options.

How has AIDS affected your life?

It's affected me. Actually until there is a cure, everyone has AIDS. It's made me very sad, but it's also made me very strong. It's made me look at the positive side of life. It's made me think about life as a precious, precious thing...something to cherish.

What's the one thing you've done that you're most proud of for young gay people?

Talking to you right now, knowing that you're gonna take what I say and print it up and have it reach people. The thing I'm most proud of is my stick-with-it-ness. I've had doors closed on me. I've had doors fall on me. I've had doors thrown at me. But it never stopped me.

I bet you threw doors right back.

Yeah, I threw doors right back, baby. The thing I'm most proud of is that I've stuck with it, and I'm still here.

You're a survivor.

I am a survivor.

How old is RuPaul?

I feel like I'm ageless, like I've been around since the beginning of time.

Then how do you stay so fabulous looking?

It's all attitude and positive energy. If you feel good about yourself it will carry over into your life. Also, I

workout and do aerobics.

If you could give anyone a makeover, who would it be?

Whitney Houston. Because she's got so much to work with, but she doesn't do anything with it. There are some pretty pictures of her, but they are few and far between. And I'd love to give Whoopi Goldberg a makeover. She could be fierce, she really could be.

Would you like to share the screen with Whoopi?

Yeah, honey. I'm trying to pitch RuPaul starring in *Sister Act 3* right now. Could you see it? It could be very fierce!

Megabucks!

Hello! I'd love to do anything as long as it's comedy and it's fun. Actually, I'd love to do a movie with LaWanda Page.

I could imagine it. Can you ever see RuPaul winning an Oscar?

Oh, absolutely! I have my acceptance speech already worked out.

Do you have your dress picked out?

Yes. Yes! I'll be wearing Valentino to the Oscars, Versace to the Grammys and Todd Oldham to the MTV Awards.

Since you're so busy right now, is there anyone special in your life?

You know, there's not because I work. I better work!

You work it, girl.

I'm working it, but I'm young. Right now I'm still discovering all these things about myself, so when I find someone, I'll have something to bring to the party.

One last question Ru. What color toilet paper do you use?

I use exclusively white.

Exclusively white??

Yes, Charmin.

I want to thank you for the interview.

Thank you, sweetheart, and, oh, I have one thing to say in closing: You better work, bitch!

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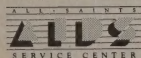
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Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS

Edited by B. Michael
Hunter
(Other Countries Press)

Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS will easily be hailed as the most path-breaking book to emerge from the urgent dilemma facing black gays in America-AIDS.

This powerful volume brings together in perfect unison, essays, poems, artwork and articles that resonate from the heart and minds of those engaged in earnest warfare against this devastating disease. Additionally, this volume covers a myriad of social, political and cultural aspects against the backdrop of society's ever increasing climate of homophobia, repression and intolerance.

AIDS specific and AIDS related, *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS* collectively dares to defy the spirit robbing nemesis that has arrested the hopes and shattered the dreams of so many of our black brothers and sisters. If nothing else, this volume provides a final sounding board for many of the writers that are featured who have succumbed in their battle against this deadly virus.

The strength and beauty of this work if found in the fabric that fuses the authors to their prose in a

brilliant way. Consequently, what is rendered is a melodic chorus of hope, strength and victory even in the face of despair. The voices are bold, brilliant and unapologetic. The candor and honesty that is evident throughout the book, christens it with authenticity and "realness." The reader will come away having experienced any number of emotions. You will be moved to tears, compelled to laugh and then have the courage to cry once more.

The oftentimes pain filled prose and dialogue grips the reader with harsh and gruesome detail of what life is like for so many of our brothers, lovers and friends caught in the vise-like grip of the most horrendous health challenge to face this country. *Sojourner* illustrates, in diverse and often unexpected ways how many deal with the day-to-day struggles, disclosure, economics and mortality.

Within the literary component, the reader is escorted by writers known and unknown. Undoubtedly, the success of *Sojourner* will ensure that these writers will no longer be nameless, faceless people. For their voices come forth lending them depth, color and shape for the world to see. In a radical departure from current thinking, the focus of this book is not on "coming out" changing for the better, or even on the abstract idea of safe sex. *Sojourner* is about let-

ting one's own nature reveal itself and ripen into rich, unpredictable uncomplicated splendor. It is about entering courageously and wholeheartedly into our fate, our families, our lovers, and our desires.

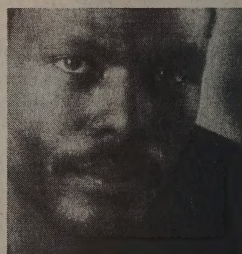
Sojourner is a book that will comfort a growing population of people who already have-or will need to-come to terms with the AIDS death of someone they love or shore their strength for one's own battle. Either way, this book is a powerful companion as we enter the uncertainty of the 21st century.

It occasionally happens that I am jolted by an extraordinary book which stops my world. A book so profound that it forces me to look a reality in a different way-a more enveloping and non-judgmental way. Other Countries: *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS* is such a book. I recommend it without reservation. —David Townsend

Schomburg Gets Joseph Beam Papers

The Joseph F. Beam papers are now accessible for scholars at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. The Schomburg is the foremost collection of black history in the Americas.

The collection includes the personal papers of the late Joe Beam, editor of



the historic black gay anthology, *In the Life*. His personal papers, correspondence, the history of the making of *In the Life*, are all part of the treasure trove of information about black gay life that will be preserved for future generations.

Baldwin Novel Book Club Selection

James Baldwin's groundbreaking novel, *Giovanni's Room*, has been selected as of three offerings by the new Triangle Classics series of the Book-of-the-Month Club.

The Book-of-the-Month Club's two million members may also choose titles by Rita Mae Brown or Edmund White—both written some 20 years after Baldwin's novel burst on the world scene.

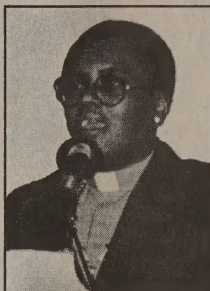
The series was launched on April 22 with "An Evening of Gay and Lesbian Classics," a New York City reading which included Lambda Literary Award winner Randall Kenan. Proceeds from the benefit helped gay and lesbian libraries in Chicago, New York and San Francisco.

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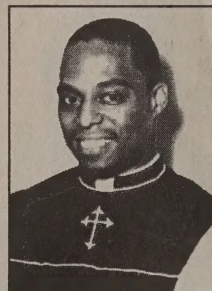
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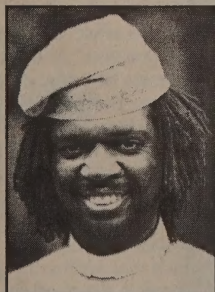


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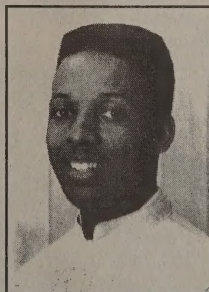
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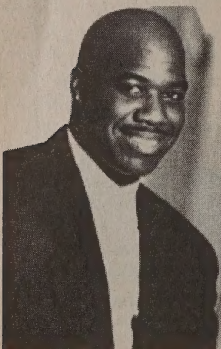
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MUSIC

Will Downing "Love's the Place to Be" (Mercury)

Having emerged as a premiere R&B balladeer, Will Downing has amazingly maintained his close ties to jazz. "It's a natural direction," he said as we spoke in his New York office. "It's the way I hear things; a different direc-



tion than straight up R&B." Currently sporting a fashionable bald head, this is a man clearly on Luther's tail as the musical love man of choice.

His fourth album (and Mercury debut), *Love's the Place to Be*, deals with several aspects of relationships, both good and bad. A fitting follow up to his justifiably acclaimed 1991 release, *A Dream Fulfilled*, the album is a cultivated collection of love songs.

The smoothness of Downing's voice (particularly on the title cut, and the brilliant "Do You Still Love Me") washes over you with a warm feeling of romance. His duet with Rachelle Ferrell, "Nothing Has Ever Felt Like This" is

a high point in an album full of musical highlights. You feel privileged that he has chosen to share his exquisite gift. Every listen brings you closer to Downing's musical vision, one of emotion and sensuality.

—D.J. Marius

Vertical Hold "A Matter of Time" (A&M)

Progressive R&B" is one description of this group's music, and one that is surprisingly accurate. On *A Matter of Time*, their debut project as a group, Vertical Hold radiates a strong Loose Ends vibe. The music is smooth and contemporary, but with an underlying dance energy. In reaching for a modern R&B edge, it doesn't lose its concept of beat.

In addition to the jazz/dance/R&B hybrid, rap rears its omnipresent head ("You Got Something [I Want]"). This is no surprise since lead singer Angie Stone is a former member of Sequence, who back in the day was one of the original

female rap crews.

Although members Willie Bruno and David Bright are accomplished producers and musicians, it is Stone who stands out. Her voice has a wonderfully soulful quality that is on point on the album's uptempo cuts, and particularly pleasing on the ballads. A fabulous cover of the Isley Brothers's "Don't Say Goodnight" is worth its weight in gold.

—D.J.M.

Ultra Naté "One Woman's Insanity" (Warner Bros.)

The debut album *Blue Notes in the Basement* helped Ultra Naté as a name for herself as a "dance diva" in 1991. With the release of her sophomore effort, *One Woman's Insanity*, she has clearly made an effort at diversity, both in her music and the audience she is appealing to. The heavily gay "club audience" Nate initially found as a performer will find many different



attracted to this

album's increased variety.

The first album highlighted Naté's interesting habit of singing slightly off-key. Excellent production by the Basement Boys (who have also worked with Crystal Waters and Mass Order) balanced her voice, and always came through with slammin' beats. With *One Woman's Insanity*, Nate sticks with the Boys, but adds the writing and/or production talents of British group D-Influence, Nellee Hooper (Soul II Soul) and Ten City, among others.

"The whole point of being an artist," she says "is expression." And expresses herself she does. Whether burning on the gospel/disco vibe of "Joy," or the R&B energy of "How Long," Naté's vocal training in the church never fails her. "I Specialize in Loneliness," which was written by Boy George, is a beautifully emotional ballad which should put to any rest any question of Naté's range as a performer.

—D.J.M.



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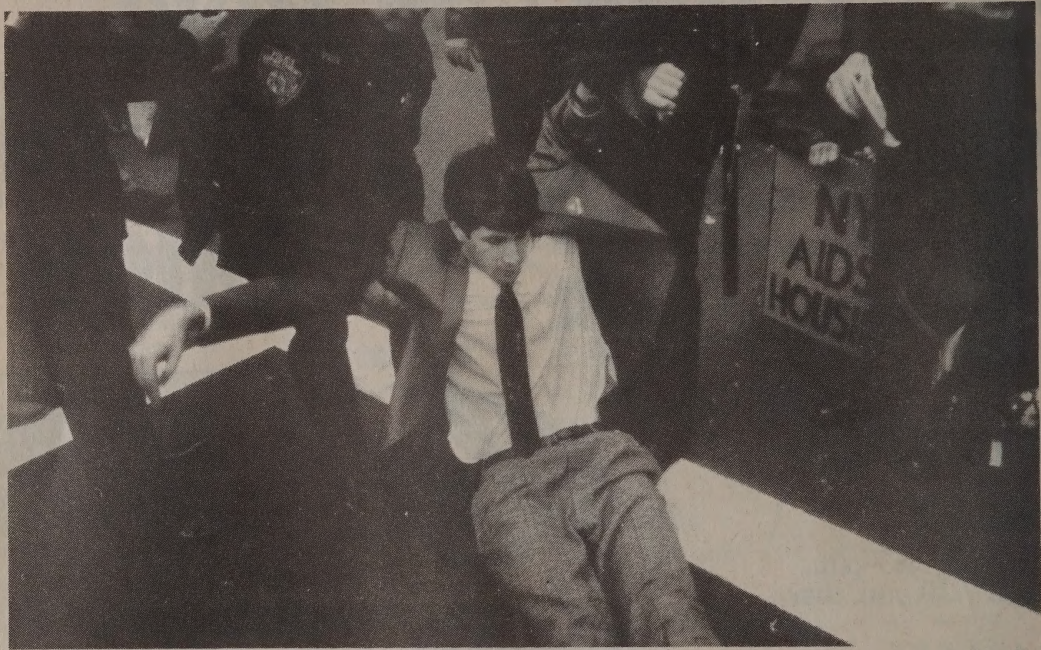


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BLK BRIEFS

SAN FRANCISCO: *Unforgettable*, a musical tribute to African-American musical icons including Dinah Washington, Sam Cooke and Nat King Cole was presented at the Lorraine Hansberry Theater Oct. 2 as a fundraiser benefitting the Black Coalition on AIDS. **NEW YORK:** New Alliance Party leader Dr. Lenora Fulani keynoted "The African Family: Lift Every Voice and Sing" forum sponsored by a coalition of black lesbian and gay groups. Congressman Edolphus Towns, who was in attendance, promised to work with GMAD and others to organize a hearing on AIDS funding in the African-American community. **NEWARK:** Project Fire, a prevention and education program designed to reach people of color with a safe sex message was launched Nov. 19. **CHICAGO:** Men of All Colors/Chicago celebrated its 13th anniversary with a dinner and awards ceremony at Carson's Ribs Nov. 13. **NEW YORK:** Gay Men of African Descent, Whole Health Support Groups and Unity Fellowship Church have started a weekly support group for men dealing with HIV/AIDS. **LOS ANGELES:** The AIDS Prevention Team held a town meeting at King Drew Medical Center to teach, among other things, how to care for people who are infected with AIDS and HIV. **WASHINGTON:** Illinois Senator Carol Mosley-Braun introduced legislation in the Senate that would increase the penalties for gay bashing and other bias related crimes. **LOS ANGELES:** Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles has its name to Men of All Colors Together/Los Angeles. **NEW YORK:** The theme of the 1993-1994 Rockefeller Residency Fellowship at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies is "Race and Class in Lesbian and Gay Communities." **JOHANNESBURG:** Gays and Lesbians of the Witwatersrand (GLOW), the largest black gay and

lesbian support organization in South Africa now has four chapters.

LONG BEACH: A men of color program for social, educational and special activities was started at the Center of Long Beach. **SACRAMENTO:** The Black and White Alcohol and Drug Recovery Program has opened to serve the gay and lesbian community. **NEW YORK:** CenterBridge, the Center's AIDS-related bereavement program has formed an African-American bereavement group. **LOS ANGELES:** The HIV Prevention Program of the Minority AIDS Project was awarded a \$70,000 grant from AmFar for its needle exchange program targeted to African-American and Latino injection drug users. **NEW YORK:** Adodi/New York and African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change were sponsors for the program of videos about the African-American lesbian and gay experience which screened at the seventh New York Lesbian & Gay Experimental Film Festival Sept. 11. **SAN FRANCISCO:** The Brothers Network held a barbecue at the

United Emergence co-sponsored the "Midsummer Picnic Jam" Aug. 22.

BOSTON: The Women's Theater Project presented "Silence Is Never Golden," an evening of theater, music and movement exploring black lesbian life. **LOS ANGELES:** Approximately 70 black gay men attended the third annual retreat sponsored by the Men's Caucus of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum held at Camp Ta Ta Pochon in the San Bernardino Mountains in September. **SEATTLE:** People of Color Against AIDS Network received a \$3,000 grant from the Pride Foundation to fund a leadership development conference for gay and bisexual men of color. **JOHANNESBURG:** The Gay Men's Health Forum, dedicated to the empowerment of gay men and lesbians, has changed its name to the Gay People's Health Forum because of the large number of lesbians who are part of the organization. **AUSTIN:** Ebony Connection recently sponsored a cultural expedition to the Institute of Texas Cultures in San Antonio.



"The Malibu Fire Department appreciates your gratitude, sir, but this isn't really necessary."

By Alan Bell, Mark Haile, Shawn Hinds and Don Thomas

Warwick Angry Over ABC's 'Day One' Report

NEW YORK—Singer Dionne Warwick is angry about a television report that said some of her fund-raising events for AIDS-related organizations have reaped little for their non-profit



organizations. David Brokaw, who spoke on her behalf, also said Warwick was "insulted" by the show's promos, believing they reflected "the worst example of tabloid journalism."

The Nov. 1, 1993 telecast of the ABC News program *Day One* had charged that the singer's fund-raising efforts failed from extravagance and ineptitude. According to the report, the Warwick Foundation, a non-profit entity begun in 1988 whose goal was to bring millions of dollars to minority-community AIDS organizations, "raised \$2.1 million but spent \$2.8 million before it shut down in 1991."

Day One anchor Forrest Sawyer said that of money raised at celebrity galas in New York, Washington,

Los Angeles and elsewhere, less than three percent, or about \$60,000, went to groups for which funds were intended. Some 60 creditors remain unpaid.

But Warwick spokesperson Brokaw said the singer has a successful record of organizing benefits and raised \$2 million for AIDS causes with her recording of "That's What Friends Are For."

"Ms. Warwick goes into every benefit with the mind-set that what she is doing is going to raise funds and help those in need," Brokaw said. "When a benefit begins, she is presented with facts and budgets by the venues before agreeing to lend her name, time and talents. If the facts change along the way and the benefit begins to look like it will cost a lot of money, this is not Dionne Warwick's fault."

"Fund-raising is a tough business," says ABC's Sawyer. "It's not a crime to try to raise money and fail to do it. But if that's what happens, those doing it should change or get out of the business." But, Sawyer says, Warwick and partner Guy Draper continue in fund-raising, still staging losing events for sponsor organizations. "They did three concerts in the Virgin Islands that lost \$113,000," said Sawyer, "and Seattle charities bailed out because they were afraid of losses."

U.S. Asylum for Gay Brazilian

SAN FRANCISCO—A request for asylum in the United States was granted to a Brazilian man of African descent who feared persecution in his native country because he is gay.

Marcelo Tenorio, 30, a San Francisco house painter became the first person ever granted political asylum in the U.S. due to his sexual orientation when Phillip Leadbetter, an administrative judge for the Immi-

gration and Naturalization Service ruled that homosexuals were a persecuted social group in Brazil. Tenorio fled his home country in 1990 for the U.S. after he was beaten and stabbed by a group of youths outside a gay club in Rio de Janeiro.

Tania Alvarez, Tenorio's attorney, successfully argued that Tenorio has a "well founded fear of persecution based on membership in a social group." This is the first case that recognizes homosexuality as a qualifying factor for asylum in the U.S. Judge Leadbetter cited strong supporting evidence of attacks on gay men in Brazil in his ruling.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission in San Francisco has recently begun to pursue such cases with the INS. IGLHRC Executive Director Julie Dorf issued a statement calling for U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to designate the case of Tenorio as a landmark ruling and to "intervene in similar cases pending of lesbians and gay men who don't dare return for fear of violence, incarceration, and even execution."

BGLLF National Conference Set

LOS ANGELES—The Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum has announced that the Meadowlands Hilton Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey will be the site of the seventh National Black and Lesbian Conference and Institutes to be held Feb. 17-21, 1994.

Themed "Black Lesbians and Gays: From Silence to Celebration... Beyond the 28 Days," the conference will include programs on political advocacy, economic empowerment, coalition building, homophobia, spirituality and leadership development, as well as cultural issues.

"It's important that we, as black gays and lesbians, celebrate our

lives openly 365 days a year, not just during the 28 days of Black History Month," says Russell Thornhill, co-chair of the conference. "We need to celebrate the heroes and heroines who have come and gone before us and keep their legacies alive. That's what we hope to inspire during this year's conference."

Thornhill, along with lead chair Vallerie Wagner and the New York-based Beyond 28 Days Committee co-chairs Candice Boyce and Paul R. Darling, are currently seeking workshop presenters, volunteer assistance and vendors to sell merchandise at the conference.

Additionally, the AIDS Prevention Team, a project of the Forum, will conduct its sixth annual AIDS Institute at the conference, bringing together the various levels of African-American service providers working within the black community to meet the challenges of AIDS and HIV disease.

Proposals for workshops and institutes can be directed to the conference planning committee at 1219 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90019.

Yolanda King OKs Gay Rights

COLORADO SPRINGS—The need for unity and understanding of all minorities and disenfranchised groups, including lesbians and gay men, was emphasized in a keynote speech given by Yolanda King at the Colorado Unity Rally For Equality on Oct. 3.

Produced by the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition, the rally called for all organizations and groups concerned about fundamentalist attacks on multiculturalism to put aside their differences and work toward common goals.

Prior to the event, King, daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was urged to cancel her appearance by a group of African-Americans from Colorado Springs who opposed the inclusion of lesbians and gay men in the rally. However, King noted the importance of building a coalition with all oppressed

peoples, and, in her speech, made an impassioned appeal for all to set aside personal cultural and religious ideals and realize that all forms of discrimination, bigotry, and racism should not be tolerated. She specifically named homophobia as one of the roots of much of the social and civil injustice in America.

Nash, Daugherty Take Top Titles

SAN DIEGO—Alexander Nash and Casmia Daugherty took top honors in the 16th annual Mr. and Miss Gay Black San Diego Pageant held recently at the Brass



Rail. The event is one of America's oldest black pride contests.

A dozen contestants entered the contest which was produced by Empress XXII Nicole to benefit Logan Youth and Family Services Center, a program for youth of color from five to 17 years old.

Nash, 25, a volunteer at the San Diego Gay and Lesbian Center was selected as "Mr. Black San Diego," while Daugherty, an entertainer, won the title of "Miss Black San Diego." Both winners vowed to promote black gay pride and to continue with their community service work.

Radio Station Denounces Rap Homophobia

LOS ANGELES—KACE, a black-owned radio station which includes rap in its programming, has announced that it will

refuse to play records that glorify drug usage, promote violence or denigrate women. Although homophobic lyrics were not specifically mentioned in the new policy, programming director Rich Guzman confirmed that records which malign lesbians and gay men are off the playlist as well.

"We will certainly not play music which is anti-gay," Guzman told BLK. "There are so many negatives in our community, we want to remove all of the negativity and encourage more positivity," he said.

The new policy, which Guzman and music director Mark Gunn refer to as "enjoyability with responsibility," looks at songs on an individual basis rather than a particular artist. That way, they contend, an artist's song promoting the importance of education would be played while one advocating violence against lesbians and gay men would not.

Guzman and Gunn are quick to point out that the new policy does not condone censorship. Artists and record companies have the right to record and produce whatever they wish, the two radio executives agree, but they also say that radio stations have the right to refuse to play those recordings they consider offensive. While all of society's problems can't be solved by taking this stand, Guzman notes that "there is overwhelming support from the community. It's a very positive thing that we are doing."

D.C. Gets Latest Unity Fellowship Church Chapter

WASHINGTON—Inner Light Unity Fellowship Church, the movement of gay affirming churches with congregations in Los Angeles, New York City and Detroit, has expanded its outreach with a new affiliate in Washington, D.C.

Rev. Rainey Cheeks was installed as the first pastor of the new ministry at a summer gathering of family, friends and noted clergy from churches throughout the Washington metropolitan area. The ceremony

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ny was officiated by Rev. Zachary Jones of New York City's Unity Fellowship Church.

Founded by Bishop Carl Bean of Los Angeles in 1985, the Unity Fellowship Church Movement seeks to affirm the divinity of people of color in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities who are often shunned by mainstream churches. It is a healing ministry based on Liberation Theology, a doctrine dedicated to freeing people from dependence and dominance.

Worship services for the D.C. congregation are held every Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. in the chapel of the First Congregation Church at 20th and G Sts., N.W. While its focus is on the lesbian and gay community, the church is straight-friendly and open to all.

U.S. AIDS Head Visits L.A.'s MAP

LOS ANGELES—The Minority AIDS Project was among the agencies visited by National AIDS Policy Coordinator Christine Gebbie during a tour of AIDS service organizations in the southland.

Bishop Carl Bean, executive director of the agency, provided a guided tour of the facility on Jefferson Blvd. for Gebbie and members of her staff. Joining them on the tour were Paul Davis, MAP's director of education and Phill Wilson, AIDS Project Los Angeles's public policy director. Wilson is also a founding director of MAP.

After the tour of the MAP, Gebbie spoke with a group of former gang members currently in MAP's Youth Education Services program. These volunteers of this model program provide peer counseling in African-American and Latino communities not serviced by mainstream AIDS organizations. Gebbie then spoke privately with a few AIDS patients before answering questions from the crowd of approximately 75 MAP clients, case workers, volunteers and invited guests.

With topics ranging from AIDS disability and social security to nee-

dle exchange programs, Gebbie spoke of the underclass and disenfranchised who have been impacted by AIDS and HIV. With regard to AIDS care inclusiveness of President Clinton's health care reform package, she noted that "home care and prescription drugs are covered and cannot be revoked."

Bishop Bean, responding to critics who say that monies for services and research in the AIDS sector are spread too thin and that organizations shouldn't exit solely for communities of color, said those critics are "racist and classist" and that he believes Gebbie, along with President Clinton are "sincere about establishing programs that make health care accessible for minorities and others who are not part of the mainstream."

Gays Participate in King March

WASHINGTON—Unlike the event it honors, about 200 black lesbians and gay men were officially among the 75,000 people who came in August to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and to walk the same mile that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. walked in 1963.

Bayard Rustin, who was black and openly gay, planned the logistics of the original 1963 march, but was relegated to the sidelines at the actual event by Martin Luther King and other members of the march committee who feared repercussions because of his sexual orientation.

To guarantee Rustin's place in history, the Bayard Rustin Commemorative Alliance was formed on the occasion of the 1993 march by a group of black lesbians and gay men and their supporters. Commemorative Alliance co-chairs Mandy Carter and Chauncy Lyles, along with honorary co-chairs Coretta Scott King, Rev. Jesse Jackson and D.C. mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, also worked to ensure that lesbian and gay speakers would be invited to the rally following the march.

Phill Wilson, Director of Public

Policy at AIDS Project Los Angeles and founder of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, spoke to the crowd gathered at the Lincoln Memorial noting that "our success is dependent on our ability to work together and understand that our struggles are connected."

The final Commemorative Alliance effort was a memorial tribute to Rustin and other notables of the civil rights movement including Audre Lorde and James Baldwin. It was an evening of music, speeches and dramatic readings at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

After an opening invocation by Rev. Jesse Jackson, featured artist Martha Wash backed by the Bayard Rustin Commemorative Alliance Mass Choir roused the crowd with her rendition of two gospel favorites. Produced and directed by Gregory Adams, the event also paid tribute to prominent African-Americans who have died of AIDS. Adams noted that the it had "turned into something much larger and more powerful than anything we could have ever imagined."

Black Judge Strikes Down Sodomy Statute

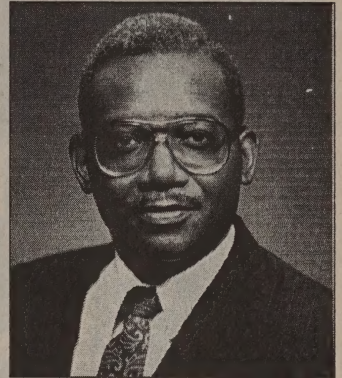
NEW ORLEANS—Judge Calvin Johnson has struck down Louisiana's 187-year-old sodomy statute because it violates the state's constitutional provisions protecting privacy. The law carried a sentence of up to five years in prison for all "unnatural carnal copulation" between homosexuals and heterosexuals alike.

The ruling was handed down in a case involving Johnny L. Baxley, 49, who was arrested last year when he offered to perform oral sex on a stranger and pay \$20 for the privilege. Before replying, the stranger stood, and signaled to his two plainclothes vice partners lying in wait to run up and handcuff Baxley.

Baxley was one of about 85 people arrested during an undercover operation in the French Quarter in May and June, 1992. He had been charged with the felony of crime

against nature.

While many of the men and women arrested in the sting quietly pleaded guilty in Criminal Court,



Baxley hired John D. Rawls, an attorney known for defending lesbian and gay rights to challenge the state's ban on oral sex.

Harry Connick, Sr., Orleans Parish District Attorney and father of singer Harry Connick, Jr., said he would appeal the ruling to the state Supreme Court.

Skins Convicted in Cohens Death

SALEM—A fire which began when someone tossed a Molotov cocktail into the basement of a house claimed the lives of a black lesbian and a white gay man. The Sept. 26, 1992 firebombing has been attributed to Skinheads.

Hattie Mae Cohens, 29, died of smoke inhalation when she was trapped in a converted basement apartment. Brian Mock, 45, with whom she shared the space, died from skin burns and smoke and heat inhalation the next day.

Eddie Keel, 17, a nephew of Cohens, believes the firebombing was in retaliation for an earlier dispute. Keel said the altercation started when some people in a house behind the one where his aunt lived called him a racially derogatory name. As the argument progressed, he said, someone pulled a knife on him. He said a friend of his took the knife away, and Keel said he punched the person in the mouth.

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The firebombing occurred about an hour later.

Witnesses reported that the fire-bombers yelled, "Nigger, lezzie!" as they threw the Molotov cocktail. Cohens had protected both her nephew and Mocks, physically disabled from a previous attack, on a number of occasions.

Salem police arrested three white men and one woman after the arson and murders. Two of the four are known Skinheads; another formerly lived in the converted apartment house where Cohens and Mock lived.

In the subsequent trial, two of the men, Leon L. Tucker, 22, and Philip Bruce Wilson Jr., 21, were found guilty of felony murder and two counts of racial intimidation. The woman, Yolanda Cotton, 20, was found not guilty and was released after spending six months in jail. The third man, Sean Edwards, 22, had pled guilty to aggravated murder in return for a chance at parole.

Zimbabwe to Test Herbal Cures for AIDS

HARARE, Zimbabwe—Timothy Stamps, Zimbabwe's health minister, said government laboratories have started a testing program to help traditional herbalists prove their preparations do more than relieve AIDS symptoms.

Herbal remedies have long been successfully used alongside modern medicine to treat a wide range of ailments, including fevers. Since the mid-1980s, numerous African herbalists have claimed to have halted the onset of AIDS, but Western-trained doctors argue the traditional practice of puncturing and scarring the skin with needles and razors often did more to spread the virus.

The debate over the role of tribal healers, known as n'angas in the Shona language, was revived when state television quoted doctors at the main hospital in Harare as saying two patients of n'anga Benjamin Burombo tested negative nearly two years after identical tests diagnosed them as carriers of the virus that

causes AIDS.

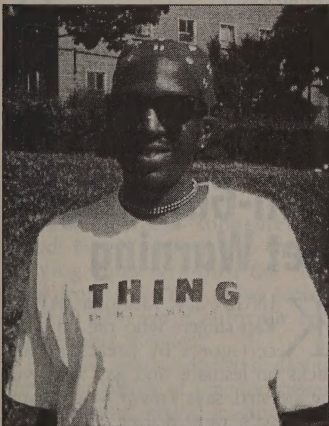
The main government laboratory said AIDS testing methods were not completely accurate and experts wanted to see more than just two cases of apparently reversed diagnosis, the television report said. Experts further admitted administrative problems have led to mistakes with blood samples and the documentation covering AIDS patients.

The 20,000 member Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association says it has submitted about 250 plants used to treat AIDS-related ailments for clinical tests.

'Thing' Issues Final Magazine

CHICAGO—Robert Ford, founding publisher of *Thing* magazine, shut down the quarterly after ten issues of publication.

Along with friends Trent Adkins and Lawrence Warren, Ford started the publication in 1989, providing a black gay perspective to the bur-



geoning underground media. Beginning with a couple of hundred locally distributed xeroxes and expanding to 3,000 copies with national distribution of the last few issues, *Thing* was considered a huge success story in the world of underground 'zine publishing.

"We knew for ourselves what a rich and important cultural thing black gay men have to share. We wanted to make a magazine that

would be our way of documenting our existence and contribution to society," he told *Outlines*.

The 'zine grew to a point where it was "too small to generate lots of funding and too large to run without a staff." So, with that and other important financial considerations, Ford decided to move onto other projects after completing issue #10 in August of 1993.

He now contributes an African-American perspective to the new *Plus*, a lifestyles publication aimed at HIV-positives. Due to his own seropositive status and concerns, Ford "has a lot to say about those issues." Ford also writes music reviews for the weekly *Babble*, a Chicago club guide.

As for future forays into the world of publishing, Ford would like "to regress a little bit and put out another real 'zine that has no issue date, no expectations, that promises no issues after that, that is just kind of out there and in your face."

Blacks Remain at AIDS Risk

SAN FRANCISCO—After nearly a decade of AIDS, a November report from the University of California at San Francisco found that gay and bisexual African-American men are practicing high risk sexual behavior at higher rates than white gay men.

The study of 250 men in the Bay Area found that 52 percent had had anal intercourse without a condom in the six months before the 1990 survey. In addition, of the 183 men practicing anal intercourse, only 38 percent said they always used condoms, 39 percent sometimes used condoms, and 23 percent never used condoms. Moreover, 19 percent of the men had unprotected intercourse with female partners.

Those who practiced unprotected sex did perceive themselves to be at risk for HIV infection, but more "street intercept techniques" seem to be needed to "promote these men's use of condoms and by helping them to agree with the social norm that unprotected anal intercourse is

unacceptable," says study author John L. Peterson, Ph.D., a researcher at the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

The study is one of the first to document the high-risk behaviors among non-white men and was published in the November 1992 issue of *American Journal of Public Health*.

Whitman Clinic Max Robinson Center Opens

WASHINGTON—The Max Robinson Center of the Whitman-Walker Clinic held its formal dedication on April 5. The satellite facility provides a medical clinic, HIV related medical services, and educational programs. Located at 3920 S. Capitol St., S.E., the facility is expected to provide programs to the 20 percent of DC's HIV impacted residents who live in the area.

HIV activists and care providers in the district have not all been enthusiastic about the new facility, complaining that Whitman-Walker gets preferential treatment in disbursement of AIDS money. Over \$500,000 to date has gone into the Max Robinson Center, from both federal funds and local donations.

Robinson, who died of AIDS in December 1988, was DC's first African-American newscaster who later joined ABC-TV as the nation's first African-American network news anchor.

Baptists Bash Gays in N.Y.

NEW YORK—Rev. Theodore Jemison, president of the National Baptist Convention, the nation's largest denomination of black churches, called gay life "sinful" in an address to the group at its annual convention.

"Men should be men," said Jemison, who is retiring as head of the Nashville-based organization next year. "There are people in high

places doing wrong. We have all these things: men who don't want to work and men who wear ladies' clothes."

"The Lord wants us to be men," Jemison continued, "men who stand up for right and righteousness, for righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people. If we are not careful, we'll raise a generation that is lost."

The reverend's remarks brought delegates to their feet with shouts of "amen."

Lesbians, Gays March in Black Billiken Parade

CHICAGO—Although it wasn't a sure thing until just days before, the local black lesbian and gay community was represented in the nation's largest African-American parade Aug. 14. Successful negotiations took place July 29 with the Chicago Defender, sponsors of the 64th annual Bud Billiken Parade, and members of the Ad Hoc Committee of Proud Black Lesbians and Gays.

The parade, viewed by over a million spectators winds through the heart of Chicago's Southside along Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., followed by a picnic in Washington Park. The parade is both televised and covered by local black radio stations.

With the theme "Respecting Diversity in Our Community," the Ad Hoc Committee of Proud Black Lesbians and Gays submitted its application for the parade in June, a month prior to the July 1 deadline, but received no official response.

Two days before the deadline, the Ad Hoc Committee submitted another application this time calling itself "Diverse Black Role Models." The second application was identical to the first, except that it did not use the words "lesbian" or "gay."

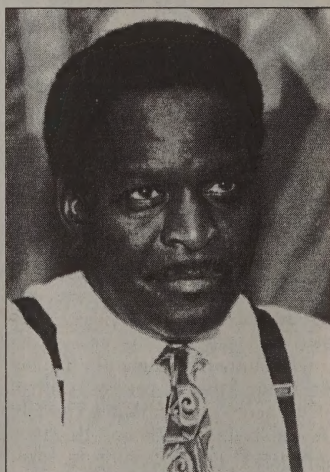
Within days of each other, the Ad Hoc Committee received approval for "Diverse Black Role Models," while the application for "Ad Hoc Committee of Proud Black Lesbians and Gays" was denied.

"Due to space, time and manpower constraints, we just cannot accommodate all who wish to participate in our parade," the rejection letter read. "As hard as we try to include everyone, it is just logistically impossible to do so."

The Ad Hoc Committee filed a complaint with the Chicago Human Relations Commission and engaged the services of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which had just opened a midwest office. Success came during two formal meetings arranged by the Commission on July 28 and 29.

S.F. Mayor Fires Black Minister

SAN FRANCISCO—Mayor Frank Jordan has asked Rev. Eugene Lumpkin to resign from the city's human rights commission for saying that homosexuals should be



stoned to death during a television interview.

Lumpkin, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, has been under fire for weeks for saying homosexuality is "an abomination against God." The Board of Supervisors has called for his resignation, but Jordan had stood behind his appointment until he hear Rev. Lumpkin's most recent statements.

"As long as I am mayor, no one in this administration or who represents this office by serving on a

commission will remain in their post if they directly or indirectly advocate aggression against any person or group of people," Jordan said.

Lumpkin has been replaced by James Mayo, a director of the United Negro College Fund and a trustee of Bethel African American Episcopal Church.

Group Conducts National Survey

WASHINGTON—The *Los Angeles Sentinel* reports that a nationwide survey is being conducted on the attitudes of African-Americans and homosexuality within the African American community by the Washington, D.C.-based National Black News Survey.

The survey consists of three questions: 1) As you understand them, do you support the goals of the Homosexual Rights Movement? 2) Do you think Homosexuals should be allowed to adopt children? 3) How many of your friends are Homosexual?

African-Americans interested in participating in the survey can reportedly send their responses to the questions to NBNS, 1221 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. #522, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Anti-Gay Songs Get Warning

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Rap singers who rile up concert-goers by preaching attacks on lesbians and gay men will be arrested, says Trevor MacMillan, Jamaica's new police chief. The warning followed festival concerts in which reggae/rap singers urged the shooting of police, homosexuals and even the Pope.

A manager for popular Jamaican rapper Shabba Ranks responded to MacMillan by expressing hope he would understand the social conditions that prompt the musicians' statements.

"One will have to watch and see if this country is going to kill social

commentary by over re-acting," said Olivia "Babsy" Grange, the music manager and Jamaica's former minister for information and culture.

"I don't care if you are a Grammy winner or any kind of international star. If you preach violence and it's against the law, you must be dealt with," MacMillian said.

Violence is a staple of Jamaica's current musical rage, the reggae/rap hybrid known as dancehall. Lyrics often espouse death by the "matic"—automatic weapon—for police and gay men.

Grange, who also promotes reggae legend Bob Marley's youngest son, Damien, said the rappers' social commentary "in most instances is not meant literally, but is a way of expressing certain concerns."

Black Gay Men Attend New York Retreat

PAWLING, N.Y.—A workshop on spirituality, a talent show, swimming in Green Mountain Lake, tennis, hiking and plenty of free time to converse with one another provided just some of the enrichment and excitement as 66 black gay men attended the Adodi New York three-day retreat in upstate New York.

The retreat was sponsored by Adodi New York and was entitled "Loving Ourselves thru the 90s." Men from New York, New Jersey, Boston, Chicago, California and Philadelphia attended.

Between workshops and dining there was plenty of time for swimming, boating, hiking, jogging, conversation and communing with nature. One evening there was a joke competition at a late night campfire. Later still, the campfire was host to several dodi brothers singing old Motown standards. Others stayed up late playing cards.

A talent show featured two drag performers, singing, poetry readings and a touching sign language performance to song.

One negative note was finding a large sign over the tennis court fence which read "Fags." The group

considered this a hate crime and reported it to the staff and the Pawling police.

Adodi, a support group for black gay and bisexual men, was founded in 1986. (Reported by Tracy C. Gibson)

Feds Free HIV+ Haitians After 20 Months

WASHINGTON—It took as long as 20 months, but the White House finally complied with a federal judge's order and admit to the United States the HIV-positive Haitian refugees who had been held at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The beleaguered band of boat people had lived under U.S. military guard since fleeing Haiti after the September 1991 military coup that overthrew Jean Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first elected president.

Lawyers for the Haitians say about half of the refugees have relatives who are U.S. residents. Those who cannot be placed with family will be placed through two charities.

Judge Sterling Johnson Jr. of the Eastern District of New York ordered the release, saying that the medical status of the Haitians does not justify the "indefinite detention" to which they have been subjected. All of the Guantanamo Haitians were deemed to have credible claims for political asylum in the United States, but subsequent medical tests revealed they carry the virus that causes AIDS, which is among the medical conditions for which immigrants can be excluded.

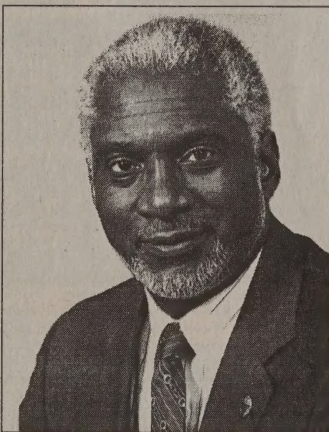
In a move that angered Haitian refugee advocates and formed the basis of the lawsuit settled with Johnson's order, immigration officials put the HIV-positive refugees through a second, more rigorous test of their asylum eligibility, but without the benefit of legal counsel that usually is allowed at that stage of the immigration process.

Johnson ruled that the denial of the right to counsel was illegal, and he harshly criticized the Bush and Clinton administrations for their

handling of the HIV-positive immigrants.

College Prexy to Named to CDC

ATLANTA—David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., president of Nashville's Meharry Medical College and one of the nation's pre-eminent experts on minority and community health issues, has been named director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it was announced by Health and Hu-



man Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

As a well respected leader in medicine and public health, "Satcher brings world-class professional stature, management skills, integrity and preventative health-care experience to his new role," Shalala said.

Preventing new infections of HIV and dealing with health problems of the nation's inner cities are among the priorities on Dr. Satcher's agenda when he assumes the post January 1. He said that HIV/AIDS "challenges us as no other problem has before and the role of CDC is becoming increasingly crucial for the nation."

Throughout his professional career, Dr. Satcher, 52, has focused primarily on the health of minorities, with an emphasis on preventative medicine. His areas of expertise include medical genetics with a focus on Sickle Cell disease, hypertension, geriatrics and cancer.

BLK VEIL

WILMER AMES, JR., founder and editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, died of a heart attack of Feb. 16, 1993, in Manhattan. Ames, 45, was a reporter for 11 years at *Sports Illustrated* and *Time*, co-author of *Toughen Up: The Chuck Norris Fitness System* and a freelance writer for many other national publications. *Emerge*, five years in the planning, began publication in 1989, aimed at upwardly mobile African-Americans. Ames is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister.

KERRIGAN BLACK died March 8, 1993, just three months after being diagnosed with AIDS-related kidney failure. Born in Chicago, he received a B.A. from Stanford University followed by his M.A. from U.C. Berkeley in folklore with an emphasis on African American music. Black sang in jazz clubs, writing songs for over 20 years. In 1984, he performed his one man show, *Tryin' To Get Home*, a tribute to African-American music. He recorded many of his songs, and was at work on a children's album when he became ill. He is survived by his partner of 15 years, Larry Cross.

BARON LEROY CASTOR died Nov. 3, 1992, of AIDS in East Orange, N.J. Born Feb. 22, 1959 in Dade City, Fla., he attended Montclair State University in New Jersey, San Diego City College and Los Angeles City College. Castor served in the U.S. Navy for four years aboard the USS Ranger. He danced with the Sally Blackwood Dance Theater, Studio Theater of East Pasco and the Kitsap Peninsula Dance Theater. He also acted and sang in many productions, the last of which was *Checking Out* in 1990. He is survived by his companion, Colin James Gibson; his parents; three sisters and four brothers.

WELLMORE ALFRED COOKE, one of the founders of the D.C. Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, passed away on April 23, 1993, of complications arising from AIDS. Cooke, 67, was the president emeritus of D.C. Black Lesbian and Pride, serving prior as the groups president and coordinator. Cooke was also president of the Washington Pinnacle Club, a charter member of Best Friends of Washington, and a member of the D.C. Coalition of Black Gays and Lesbians. Cooke was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, and a supervisor statistician with the Internal Revenue Service at the time of his retirement. He is survived by a brother and three daughters.

MELVIN DIXON, the noted author and poet, died of AIDS related complications on Oct. 26, 1992, at his home in Stamford, Conn. Dixon, 42, a professor of English at Queens College, received a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in 1971 and a doctorate from Brown University in 1975. Dixon translated a number of works from French to English, wrote a textbook on African-American literature and published a book of poetry, *Change of Territory*, in 1985. He is best known for his novels, *Trouble the Water*, which won the Charles H. and N. Mildred Nilon Excellence in Minority Fiction Award, and *Vanishing Room*. Dixon also received a Lambda Literary Award for his contribution in *Poets for Life: 76 Poets Respond to AIDS*. Dixon also taught at Fordham, Williams and Columbia Universities, and was a Rockefeller Foundation Scholar in Residence at the Schomburg Center For Research in Black

Culture.

JAMES GILBERT, died May 1, 1992, of complications associated with AIDS. Gilbert was the co-chair of BWMT/Indianapolis.

MARSHA P. JOHNSON aka MALCOLM MICHAELS, JR., was found floating in the Hudson River on July 6, 1992, with an undetermined cause of death. Johnson, a well known member of the Gay Liberation Front, was a confirmed participant in the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion. A female impersonator, Johnson was featured in a number Andy Warhol prints of impersonators and a book *The Gay Crusaders*. He was 46.

NATHAN JOSHENBERGER, born Sept. 13, 1953, died July 31, 1992, of AIDS related complications. Joshenberger was a social worker for Westside AIDS Case Management Services and a committed member of San Francisco's Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action.

LARRY LEVAN, the legendary DJ and musical pioneer, died Nov. 8, 1992, of heart failure. Born Lawrence Philpot in 1954, Levan was New York's premiere DJ for the 11 years he held court at the Paradise Garage. Musicians, singers and music industry movers and shakers all came to pay homage to Levan. After the Garage closed in 1987, Levan sporadically did guest spots at clubs across the United States. He had only just returned from an acclaimed month long tour of Japan when he became ill. A memorial took place for Levan Nov. 17, 1992 at the U.N. Plaza Chapel.

AUDRE LORDE, the award-winning feminist warrior, mother, poet, writer and friend, died peacefully at her home in the fashionable Judith's Fancy section of St. Croix on Nov. 17, 1992, after a 14-year battle with cancer. She was 58. Born in New York, Lorde received a degree in library science from Columbia University. She worked as a librarian at City University of New York, taught creative writing at Tougaloo College in Mississippi and at John Jay College in New York and became a professor of English at Hunter College. Lorde's 17 volumes of poetry, essays and autobiography published since 1968 include *The First Cities*, *Cables to Rage*, *Zamia*, *New Spelling of My Name*, *The Black Unicorn*, *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*, and her most recent book *Underground: Chosen Poems Old and New*. A final collection of poetry, *The Marvelous Arithmetic of Distance*, will be published posthumously. In 1973, Lorde was nominated for a National Book Award for her poetry collection, *From a Land Where Other People Live*. She won an American Book Award for *A Burst of Light*, an essay collection. In 1991 Lorde was designated New York State Poet Laureate, simultaneously receiving the Walt Whitman Citation of Merit. She received honorary degrees from Oberlin, Hunter and Haverford Colleges. Hunter College in New York established the Audre Lorde Poetry Center in her honor. Lorde was a member of the board of directors of the Feminist Press and a founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. Lorde's survivors include her companion, Gloria Joseph, a son and a daughter.

M. "MARTI" CORINNE MACKAY passed away on Dec. 21, 1992 of cancer in San Diego. She was 42. The well-known writer was published in the *Aché*, *BLK* and other magazines.

She read from her works at venues all across San Diego including the African-American Fine Arts Museum and the Lesbian Community Cultural Festival. Her piece, *The Gathering*, was performed at the Lyceum Theater. Mackey was a founder of Lesbian and Gays of African Descent United, a board member of the Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center, a member of the Police Department Shooting Review Board and of the Human Dignity Ordinance Task Force. Mackey leaves her life partner, Phyllis Jackson; her mother; and other relatives.

ANTHONY J. NEWBORNE, 41, passed away at home on March 13, 1993, after living nearly three years with HIV. Active in the San Francisco Bay Area HIV community, Newborne served on the board of directors for We Care Bay Area, a non-profit organization providing financial, physical and emotional support in the face of catastrophic illness.

PRESTON NICHOLSON, born Aug. 6, 1945, in Montclair, N.J. died Aug. 31, 1992, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Nicholson was a community activist and the first recipient of the Black Coalition on AIDS Harriet Tubman Award. He was 47.

BERT OTTLEY, of East Orange, N.J., died Oct. 1, 1992, of complications associated with AIDS. Ottley attended public school in New York and graduated from Oswego College with a degree in music. During his career, he managed the Delacorte Theater, Newark Symphony Hall and the Joyce Theater. Ottley was active as a singer and choral conductor at several New Jersey churches and a trustee of the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club. Until his death, he was pursuing religious studies at Drew University. He is survived by his companion, Clifford Hicks.

MELVIN G. ROSS, JR., died June 3 1993, of complications associated with AIDS as reported in *Etc*. Ross, an architect, was an activist who worked with many community organizations including the ACLU, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Association of Black and White Men Together, where he served on the Board of Directors.

JAMES SCOTT, JR., died June 24, 1992, as reported in the *Center Voice*. Scott worked at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center as a substance abuse counselor for Project Connect. A member of Gay Men of African Descent, he is survived by his mother, Anna Scott.

RORI LARELE SEALS, died Aug. 8, 1992, of AIDS related complications according to *Update*. A graduate of Reno High School, Seals studied art at the University of Nevada. Moving to San Diego in 1981, he worked as a clerk and a buyer for Robinson's and the Broadway. Seals returned to Nevada in the mid-'80s and worked in merchandising for Weinstock's. He was 32.

JAMES EARL SMITH, JR., died Aug. 15, 1992, of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. Recipient of a William Hearst Foundation scholarship, Smith earned a degree in political science from Holy Cross College, later working as an environmental technician for the National Gallery of Art. He is survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister.

JOYCE A. SMITH, born Aug. 7, 1944, died of cancer. Smith attended high school in

Pittsburgh, earned her bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University, and her master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1973. She enjoyed traveling, making doll houses and her dogs. In 1990, she joined Unity Fellowship in Los Angeles where she was a faithful member. Smith is survived by her parents, a brother, her son, and her life partner, Kimberly Jones.

WILLIAM "E.B." SMITH passed away on Feb. 18, 1992, of heart failure at his home in Los Angeles, Calif. A native of Camden, N.J., Smith performed on stage and sang in musical groups on television and across Europe. He performed with Pearl Bailey on Broadway in the 1967-71 run of *Hello, Dolly!* then became her personal road manager from 1973 through 1990 as they travelled the world together.

JOHN "ADAM" SUMLIN, born Jan. 31, 1960, died Oct. 5, 1992, of complications related to AIDS. Sumlin was born in Bakersfield, Calif. There he attended school where he excelled in sports, and was student body president. He was also a top-ten world-class participant in the sport of cockfighting. Moving to Los Angeles, he followed different pursuits ranging from dancer to legal assistant. He is survived by his father, stepmother, six sisters, six brothers, and special friends, Ernie Caruthers, R. Lee Miller and P. J. Avitto.

GARTH LEE TATE, JR., born July 27, 1951, died July 11, 1992. A New York native, Tate received his B.A. in literature from Long Island University and his M.A. in fine arts from American University. He developed the Afrocentric production *Full Moon*. Always busy, he taught school, was an associate editor for *Dance USA* magazine and an accomplished writer and director.

THOMAS BERNARD TERRELL, of Philadelphia died Sept. 11, 1992, of AIDS associated complications according to the *Washington Blade*. Terrell, 44, served in the Navy and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal. He lived and studied in Germany just after his stint in the service. Working as a flight attendant for United Airlines, Terrell travelled abroad extensively. He enjoyed sewing, cooking and photography.

DAVID E. WILLIAMS, 54, died Aug. 28, 1992 of AIDS related complications according to the *Washington Blade*. Born in Illinois, Williams was raised in Indiana and moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Georgetown University where he received his B.S. in linguistics. A winner of the World Hula-Hoop Championship in 1972, he was professionally known as "The Hula-Hoop Man," and performed his show "Be The Best You Can Be" at elementary schools throughout the District.

VERA WOODBURY died July 17, 1992, in Washington, D.C. of leukemia. Woodbury, originally from Florida, worked as an assistant counselor for handicapped children at the National Children's Center. She was active in the National Organization of Women, Chapter Nine and the University Coalition of Gays, Lesbians and Friends. She is survived by her life partner, Cathy Batson.

Obituaries are published free of charge. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include. Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.



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BLK TEA

By Preston E. Guider

Hollywood Royalty: Just when you thought **Jaye Davidson's** 15 minutes were up, we hear he's co-starring in *Star Gate*, a sci-fi fantasy which recently completed filming in the Arizona desert. There's no word on the film's plot, but it's said the Oscar-nominated drag queen plays an intergalactic ruler, King Ra. Congratulations to **Steve Semien** whose *Children of the Night* garnered two NAACP Theater Awards in addition to its GLAAD Media award as best musical...Oscar Calling: The **NAACP Image Award** nominees have been announced and the usual suspects—**Sidney, Alfre, Danny, Whitney, Laurence** and **Whoopi**—all made the cut, but it's fast rising star **Angela Bassett** who led the field with nominations in three categories. On the Big Screen, it was her riveting turn as **Tina Turner** in *What's Love Got to Do With It* and her strong support as **Betty Shabazz** to **Denzel's** *Malcolm X* that got nods. And on teevee, it was an earnest performance as the Jackson family matriarch in *The Jacksons: An American Dream* which won recognition. Looks like girlfriend is the Next Big Thing...And what about those **Jacksons**? Seems more like an American Nightmare to us...A celebration and tribute in poetry and song to proud black lesbian and gay piqueers like **Audré Lorde**

and **James Baldwin** was one of the highlights of the Hotlanta Labor Day weekend. *The Life: Legends Past and Present*, written and directed by **Tré Johnson**, produced by **Gloria McCrary** and featuring the genius of **S. Faybelle Ma-Hee** made us laugh, cry, reflect and rejoice...Blacktress **Vaginal Cream Davis**, not to be outdone by that upstart **RuPaul**, has a small bit in the new BBC produced version of **Armistead Maupin's** *Tales of the City*. Get'em girl...Well, when **Essex Hemphill** was taken with Southern Cal last year, he promised he'd come back for a more leisurely visit. A year-long residency at the **Getty** (Institute, not the Museum) in Santa Monica is a damn fine way to do it, too. Class act all the way, **Essex**...Rumor has it (and we don't want to be accused of spreading *untruths* about anybody) that a certain Chicago activist enjoys freely s...ing his adult videos with friends, making copies like they are going out of style. At least he buys erotic videos of black men from black pornographers...Sistah's are doin' it for themselves: Likewise to be found in Chi-town are the floater bars catering to black lesbians. The pre-Labor Day party hosted by **Executive Sweet's Pat** and **Vera** at Club U.N. brought out hundreds of beautiful black lesbians...While we're on the subject of beautiful black lesbians, is there any self-respecting black lesbian that has not

yet seen the video by **Ya Kid K** for the song "Let This House Beat Drop"? This belongs in *every* girl's video collection...And since we can never say too much about beautiful black lesbians, do **Nadine Smith** and **Carlene Cheatham** deserve medals or what? They delivered above and beyond the call of duty during the March on Washington...The folks at the Men's Caucus of the Forum presented *An Afternoon of Sharing* organized by **Emery Smith** and **Reginald Chappel** and hosted by **Anthony Caruthers** at his CompTown home. **Don Ragland, Antonio LeMons** and **Mark Durham** were among those there contributing cash for scholarships to the Forum's conference in February...Remember **Wayne Corbitt's** opening speech at this year's BGLLF Conference about growing up in the Church of God in Christ (where his mother is a minister) and living with HIV that brought the whole room to tears? Well, the master tape was accidentally erased, so the moment will only live in the hearts of those who heard him. But you can see him in the new feature-length documentary *Sex Is...*, which explores the meaning of sex and sexuality in the lives of gay men. Watching him tell of his South African experience will provoke a whole new set of emotions...Down, But Not Out: Looks like **Diana Ross** is in the midst of yet another

comeback attempt, this time with a vengeance. Having been ko'd by **Lynn Whitfield** in the **Josephine Baker** wars, the supreme diva is back on the boards in three different arenas. In addition to working her musical and literary memoirs, **Miss Ross** is tackling her thespian career again. Having already filmed her teevee movie debut, *Out of Darkness*, we hear **The Boss** will soon film the true story of singer **Valaida Snow**, the only black American woman captured by Nazis and thrown into a concentration camp. Sounds like quite a stretch for **La Ross** since she gives such good glamour. And, sources say that Ross's autobiography, *Memoirs: Secrets of a Sparrow* will be filmed for television with daughter **Chutney** in the starring role. During a recent publicity jaunt on **Oprah**, Ross validated the rumor that daughter **Rhonda** was the love-child of Ross and former Motown guru **Berry Gordy**. Ross never really says it in the book. "You have to read between the lines," she told Oprah. But we already knew that. Just look at the girl!...What we'd really love to read is **Mary Wilson's** review of the book...And a little advice to La Ross: When working the bestseller list, it's best to show up for a much hyped book signing, instead of canceling a couple of hours before you are to arrive, leaving ardent fans stranded without their diva...

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ACT UP Network, is seeking organizations interested in applying for direct action grants. Funds are available from the Network's Red, Hot & Blue seed money committee, and are intended to assist in the establishment of newly formed direct action organizations fighting to stop the spread of the AIDS epidemic. For more information, please submit a short essay about the organization and its need for funds to: Kim Marley, ACT UP/STL, Box 16899, St. Louis, MO 63105. (38)

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Assistant Director of Development. L.A. Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. Responsible for parts of \$1.6 million annual fund effort. Manage donor records, billing, direct mail, etc. Requirements include excellent writing and communication skills, 5 years experience in development or related field. Equal opportunity employer. Resume and cover letter to: GLCSC, 1625 N. Hudson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90028. (38)

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Executive Director. Center for Constitu-

tional Rights, a progressive public interest law organization. Responsibilities: management, fundraising, program implementation. Must work closely with Board of Directors and staff. Requirements: good communication and writing skills, and a commitment to social change. Legal training not required but experience in support to progressive action through litigation and education helpful. EOE. Send resume, cover letter, and desired salary to: CCR, E.D. Search, 666 Broadway, 7th fl., New York, NY 10012. (38)

Executive Director, Frameline: National lesbian/gay media arts organization seeks ED to manage growing non-profit. Responsibilities: fundraising, financial planning/management, staff supervision, publicity, administration. Candidates should have demonstrated experience with grant writing (government and private foundation), individual solicitations, budgets, accounting. Knowledge of media arts/arts administration needed, commitment to diversity required. Salary low 30s plus health. Women and people of color encouraged to apply. EOE. Resumes and cover letters (no phone calls) to: Frameline Search, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. (38)

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Office Assistant. Part time, flexible hours. Immediate opening. Experienced general office person with all around computer knowledge. Prefer person with IBM compatible WP 5.1 and DTP skills. West Hollywood location. Need own transportation. Lesbian membership organization. Submit application/resume to: SCWU, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd. #106, West Hollywood, CA 90069. 310-657-1115. (38)

Photo Coordinator wanted to take charge of all photography that appears in BLK publications. We need someone to determine what photos are needed to accompany particular stories (from political analyses to nude centerfolds) and to secure them. The Photo Coordinator will obtain needed photos through a search of existing files, from publicity or stock sources, or by setting up a photo shoot. A major responsibility of the Photo Coordinator will be to develop lists of models, stylists and photographers across the

country. You need not be a photographer, but you should have a good eye and enjoy working with people. Although this is not a paid position, you will rub elbows with celebrities. It also gives you a legitimate reason to approach good-looking men and women wherever you see them and ask for their phone numbers. If this sounds like you, and you're willing to put in time for expenses only, call 310-410-0808 and ask for Alan Bell. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (38)

Secretary. School in South Central Los Angeles needs a secretary who is an expert at WordPerfect 5.1 and who has the ability to explain the fine points of 5.1 to other staff. Must be well organized. Call Gloria, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 310-635-7830. (38)

UCLA's Black C.A.R.E. project is dedicated to the fight against HIV/AIDS in the black community. Black C.A.R.E.'s Black Men's Health Project is committed to gathering information on the experiences of gay and bisexual men to determine how to better meet their needs in coping with HIV disease. Two positions available: Full-time prefer a master's degree, though not necessary, must be knowledgeable about the black community, organized, detail-oriented, able to work independently and can use computers. Part-time involves interviewing and outreach activities with black men, prefer individuals certified as post test counselors, though not necessary. Send resume to Black C.A.R.E. Project, 405 Hilgard Ave., 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563. (38)

Young men of color needed to pose nude or seminude for photographer's portfolio. Call 310-427-2778 for details. (38)

Places to Live

2 bedroom 1 1/2 bath, quiet area, near USC, mature adults, \$625.00 per month. Call Dennis 213-731-3659 evenings. (39)

Calls for Submission

African-American lesbians vets sought for documentary based on "Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II." Particularly interested in finding lesbians of color who would be willing to tell their stories—in disguise if necessary—for the film. Confidentiality honored. Information 213-254-7773. (38)

Short fiction by and/or about young adults sought for anthology. Stories should be geared toward a teenaged gay and lesbian audience and should deal with issues affecting this group. Submissions from writers of color are greatly encouraged. Deadline Jan. 31, 1994. Send with SASE to Anthony Grima, Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118. (38)

AIDS Prevention Team is seeking workshop submission for the Fifth Annual AIDS Institute to be held Feb. 17, 1994 in New York City. All workshop presenters should submit a 2-page abstract

detailing work shop and format. Submit workshop proposals to: 1994 AIDS Institute, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 1219 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019. Phone 213-964-7820. Fax 213-964-7830. (38)

Spinsters Ink is seeking feminist writing by women of color in the form of full-length novels or non-fiction works. For manuscript guide line, please call or write: Spinsters Ink, Box 300170, Minneapolis, MN 55403. 612-377-0287. Fax 612-377-1759. (38)

Coloring Outside the Lines is seeking submissions of creative works on questions and discussions of life as a mixed-blood woman of color. We seek poetry, short stories, essays and theory. Mail to editors: Jamie Lee Evans and Kate Berne Miller, 224 Minor Ave. N., #A, Seattle, WA 98109. (38)

Submissions wanted for an anthology by African-American womanist writers. Send typed, doubled-spaced submissions along with a self addressed, stamped envelope to: Sisterlife, Box 28640, Seattle, WA 98118-8640. (38)

Papers are being sought on human rights issues within the lesbian and gay communities. For more write, contact Vondora Wilson-Corzen, International Lesbian and Gay Association, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011; or call 212-6207310. (38)

Submission wanted for collection on Canadian black arts and culture: art criticism, interviews, critical essays, graphics, letters, experimental writing, visual art work, books, art theories, profiles. Deadline February 1994. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope (or funds to cover postage) to: Karen Augustine, Box 317, Sta. P., Toronto, ON M5S 2S8, Canada. (38)

Essex Hemphill and Ron Simmons are seeking black gay men sixty years of age and older to participate in a nationwide oral history project about black gay life styles in the early 20th century. Contact Essex Hemphill, Evidence of Being, 401 Wilshire Blvd. #700, Santa Monica, CA 90401-1455; or Ron Simmons, Evidence of Being, Box 48100, Washington, DC 20002. (38)

The time has come to dispel the image most of America has of people with AIDS. The truth of how we live with AIDS must be told, must be seen. Women, children and people of color encouraged to apply. To submit items or for more information please write: Positives, Box 425897, San Francisco, CA 94142-5897. (38)

Submissions of lesbian and gay poetry are now being accepted for Kumbia #4. Send your work (maximum 5) with an SASE to: Terri L. Jewell and G. Winston James, Editors, Kumbia, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (38)

The Valley Alternative is looking for a few funny activist types to share their wit with others by having their work published in our new "Half Time" section. Queer people of color are especially encouraged to submit their wit, quips, and "snits" to The Valley Alternative at Box 1302, Gastai, CA 91743-1302 or fax them to 909-860-1457. For more info call Linda Berard at 909-860-1457. (38)

Chiron Rising, is seeking a burly, over-50 man of color preferably African-American, to be a cover model. For more information contact Pat Colley at 619-868-6371. (38)

Sexy black gay male fiction wanted for BLACKfire, a magazine of black gay

erotica. Re-live your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Photos also accepted. Payment upon publication. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Submissions wanted for Multicultural Lesbian Relationships anthology. First person writings, cassettes of dialogues o.k. Can request interview. Some topics of interest: racism within and outside relationship; having/raising children; socializing/friendships; language differences, etc. Contact: Rene Dawson & Terri Jewell, Co-editors, Box 23154, Lansing MI 48909. SASE required with all correspondence. (38)

For Sale

Breakthrough video on alternative therapies for AIDS. Includes Compound Q, Peptide T, also vera, ozone... For more information, call Claude at 213-882-6457. (38)

Black ex-marine bodybuilder. Super hung, 21-year-old Cody Cherokee has intimate photos available for sale. Send \$5 for nude sample plus catalog to Cherokee, Box 107, Miami, FL 33233. (38)

Black is beautiful. Exotic nude poses of black men suitable for framing. Unusually large set. Pled. Must see. Send \$21.95 for sale. Plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. State you are over age 21. I.E.C., 4540 Washington Ave., Newport News, VA 23607. (38)

"The Providence File" Harmless? Questionable? Religious, family, love, gender orientation life of black neighborhood residents. For copy send \$10 check or money order (with signed statement that you are 21 or older), payable to: M.P., Box 161465, Atlanta, GA 30321. (40)

Bad bold black men! For introductory set (10 men, 10 photos), send age (21+), signature, \$10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (38)

"Black Handfuls" features five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jacket-off. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. \$29.95 plus \$3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Discover, Visa, M.C. or American Express. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (38)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: \$4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (38)

BLACKfire, a new bimonthly magazine of black gay erotica. \$5.95 plus \$1.05 s&h. BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

Masseurs

Head to toe—relaxing deep tissue. Sensual and Swedish massage. Very good-looking competitive bodybuilder and Lic. massage therapist/physical therapist will give you that total tension release. Call AI, 213-874-0227 or 818-980-4477, 7 days/24 hours, college student discount. (38)

Black buck in a tux: A man's man. A service strictly devoted to pleasing debonair and discriminating "tall, medium brown-dark, endowed" black male executives, professionals, servicemen and pro-athletes. Discreet, confidential, handsome, travel companion. 202-529-2554. (37)

Dating Services

National gay dating. Men meet men and women meet women in your area. Try the newest concept in gay dating. Set up your free voice mail box by calling 702-334-1198. (38)

Find just the type you want. Personalized service. BAK, Box 83 Tujunga, CA 91043. (39)

HIV+ only. The "Buddy Network" is a free personal ad service for HIV+ persons. SASE for info to Box 23251, San Diego, CA 92193. (41)

Women's Personals

I want to meet you to talk and get together to do some interesting things. I'm new at this, but quite willing. My name is Dee. ☐ 3755. (40)

Black female, 100% gay, Afrocentric lover of soulful music and black gay/straight literature and films, seeks to build close friendship with a sistah. Maria, 329 Childress Ln., Flora, MS 39071. (38)

Single black gay female, interested to meet others to go out with and to get to know new friends. Kim. ☐ 3650. (40)

GBF from Florida: Quiet, sensitive, cerebral, sagittarian. Professional. Avid traveler, loves travel. Into new-age thought and spiritual growth seeking like-minded women nationwide for correspondence/friendship let us share! ☐ 3494. 180. (40)

Men's Personals—International

French white man, 40 years old, 5'11", 160 lbs., built, blond, blue eyes, alone, executive, looking for overmuscled submissive man. Home exchange visit OK. You are welcome to France. Let's transcend the ordinary. Bernard Lambotin, 1 Domaine du Pas de Courtin, 83230 Bormes les Mimosas, France. (38)

Black male, 34, seeks pen pals, men and women, 19 and above, from all over. Hobbies include electronics, music, movies, photography, traveling. Seek long lasting friendships. Letters with pictures or photographs are very welcome. Write to Tony Nyanko, Box 314, Takoradi, Ghana. (38) Men over 1 want contacts for friendship or exchange of visits. Contact: Pierre Castan, Box 2, 30620 Bernis, France. (38)

Mature danish GWM, 59", well travelled, seeks a black masculine top man 25-50 years old and well endowed. I am an honest and serious person with a good sense of humor. Romantic and enjoy homelife. Respond: John Holm, Gronnegade 36.21.v., 1102 Copenhagen K, Denmark. (38)

Beautiful African male 24, intelligent independent. Will travel to any point of the world to meet genuine friends. I love the top and aim to please. Include photograph. ☐ 178. (38)

Attractive GWM, 25 from Switzerland, seeks BGM in the USA (and other countries) for penpals, friendship. I spend a

lot of time in N.Y. and D.C. into photography, music, travelling, good conversations. If you're serious, write to Marco Carocari, Hugelstr. 8, CH-8002 Zurich Switzerland. Peace. (39)

German GWM seeks BM penpals for exchange of thoughts and dreams age over 30 (I'm 24), facial or chest hair A+. Looking forward to meet one day. Photo = answer. Will be returned if demanded. Do not hesitate! If photo not available, no problem. All will be answered. I'm a writaholic. Send your letters to R. Newmann, Belziger Str. 20, 1000 Berlin 62, Germany. Soon! (40)

German, white, travelling August/September through the USA, want to come in contact with black men for acquaintance and hopefully good longterm friendship. (Special interests: leather, bondage, S/M) Every serious letter will be answered. Mario Dorfer, Josephsburg Str. 8, D 8000 Munich 80, Germany. (38)

Attractive young blond Dutch male, looking for handsome black men for friendship, pen pals and fun. Write to Ton Verhees, Van Hillaert Straat 286, 1072 PN, Amsterdam, Holland. You won't be disappointed! (38)

Aussie koala bear, 34, bottom, into B&D, S&M and more, wishes to correspond with GBM top into this and more. Age, looks aren't important; imagination and stamina are. Would also like to hear from GBM bottoms into the same. Cum on guys. Greg, Box 2361, Sydney NSW, Australia 2001. (38)

Men's Personals—AL

Stocky brunettes wanted in Birmingham. MDC, 16th Ave., North Birmingham, AL 35204. (34)

Men's Personals—AK

GBM, 27, 5'10", 170 lbs. muscular, handsome, sincere, humorous seeks intelligent handsome men for correspondence. Your photo gets mine. Occupant, Box 3312, Ketchikan, AK 99901. (38)

Men's Personals—AZ

GWM, 45, 5'10", 180, into music, plays, theater, looking for GWM, age 35-55. Lee. ☐ 3577. (40)

Men's Personals—CA Northern California

Attractive Los Angeles GWM, 37, 5'10", 160, hairy, seeks reciprocal visits with San Francisco men. Open-minded, genuine, adventurous. Slightly kinky but sane. Enjoys travelling. If you do too, cum visit. ☐ 3777. (40)

Black male, 43, 5'11", 140#, excellent condition, smooth dancer's body, seeks top black or Latin male, into toys and long heated sessions. Uncut is a +. Me: 9-12", you 7"+. Bubbling brown sugar. ☐ 196. (39)

Built, goodlooking, masculine, white man wants to get it on with a big black man who likes to be on top. I'm 6 ft., 200 lbs, muscular, hairy chest, nice smooth bubble butt. I'll do you right! 408-450-2410. ☐ 3474. (40)

No sex please—not on the first date. Distinguished GWM writer, 50ish, looking for chums and possible relationship with romantic GWM under 40. Richard

415-552-2706. (38)

GBM, 41, 6', 185, seeks friendship/relationship with drug-free GM. Send photo with letter (if possible). # 176. (39)

GBM, 36, 5'11", 155, seeks BM, 28-40 for friendship and possible relationship. Enjoy romantic evenings, movies, theater, committed monogamous relationship. Wayne. # 3473. (39)

Attractive GBM, 26, 5'10", 165#, looking for attractive Latino or GBM in the East Bay area. Masculine, versatile Latino or GBM need apply. Photo and phone # a must. # 3335. (38)

GWM, 30, 5'8", top seeks bottom, San Francisco area, Robert. # 3120. (38)

San Francisco BM, 25, 5'10", 160, looking for guys, any race, to date. HIV status doesn't matter, personality does. Jonathan. # 3415. (39)

Black male 43, 5'11", 140 lbs. Excellent condition. Dancer bod. Smooth. Seeks top black or Latin male into toys and long heated sessions. Uncut is a +. Me 9 1/2 inches. You 7 inches +. Bubbling brown sugar. # 200. (39)

Bay Area GM, seeks single BM, 20-35. Robert. # 3366. (38)

What's up? Mike, 27, 5'7", 162, good-looking, medium brown complexion, seeks muscular, nice equipped BM. Peace. # 3303. (38)

GBM, 25, 5'10", 160, nice bod, seeks any race 18+ for pool at the Pendulum. Jessie. # 3126. (38)

GBM, 36, 5'11", 155, romantic and mature, looking for BM 28-40 for friendship and monogamous relationship. # 3318. (38)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Me too; let's talk. Louis: 415-474-5377. (38)

BM, 25 y/o, well end, stays on top all night. Loves to be sucked by all ages, all nationalities. # 3371. (38)

GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'6", 37, warm, loving and extremely affectionate. I'm seeking a serious 1-on-1 partner who enjoys romance, bike-riding, theatre, and quiet evenings. # 3349. # 168. (38)

San Diego Area

Black male, 32, 165 lbs., bottom, looking for top white male or Hispanic. I'm in a relationship looking for someone for a three-way or one-on-one with me. Thomas. # 3763. (40)

GWM, 35, 6'2", 230 lbs., muscular, handsome, well-hung, looking for tall, dark, handsome, African/American man with a big heart and dick. Willing to relocate. Charlie. # 3785. (40)

Goodlooking, masculine, BM, 6'6", 31, light-skin top man, professional, seeks GBM, 25-40, professional, masculine, muscular, into sports, movies, theater, possible relationship. (If into tennis and baseball a +). # 3667. (40)

Attractive 39-year-old black male, bottom. AF/PG. Discrete enjoy traveling, reading, good conversation seeking the perfect top that is masculine, drug free, health conscious for good times, and romantic nights. # 3480. # 177. (40)

GM, 24, 6', br/br, looking to meet other guys in San Diego area. Enjoy movies, conversation and dancing. Brian. # 3594. (40)

J.J., 38, 5'11", 185, masculine, brown complected, smooth skin, bottom seeks a masculine romantic top who is black,

Hispanic or Arabian for 1-to-1 relationship. # 3421. (40)

Goodlooking, masculine, discreet, BM, 38, 5'11", 185, many interests, bottom, brown complexion, soft baby skin, seeks masculine top man of color for friendship/relationship. Jay Jay, Ocean side, CA. # 3422. (39)

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-521-1341. (40)

Los Angeles Area

Personalized penpal service. U.S./world. Everyone welcome. No money needed. BAK, Box 83, Tujunga, CA 91043. (40)

Bloom and grow in a totally disciplined leather LOVStyle. Full partnership available with mature white male: husky, tough n tender; involving bondage, discipline and role playing as a total reality while living the good life in the burbs at the same time. Promptly call Ross at 213-684-5811. Absolutely for real! Also, reward offered for lasting referral. (38)

Hi, I'm Lee, 5'11", 168#, masculine. Looking for masculine BM. Want to get busy with serious brothers only. # 3840. (40)

Black male, 6', 155, 34, moustache, swimmer's build. Seeks muscular type, but not a must, for friend, J/O, 30-50, no drugs, fems or fats. Your place. Robert, Box 1188, South Gate, CA 90280. Thanks. (38)

Easgoing GBM, 31, 6'4", 235, professional seeking gay man to 40 and over 6 feet. Write Box 46532, Los Angeles, CA 90048. (41)

BM, 30 y.o., 6', 180 lbs., work out with weights. Looking for BM or Latino who also works out, who enjoys movies and man stuff. Jerry. # 3788. (40)

This exotic, eclectic, decidedly Afrocentric brother is on a mission to find a G, as in thang, who is fly, intelligent, packing, strong, in other words...all that. I'm 5'9 1/2 and fly. # 3789. (40)

Hot black 40 y.o. seeks romantic, intellectual, spiritual, sexual stimulation. You be masculine, sincere, decent, fun-loving, affectionate, possible relationship. # 3793. (40)

Yo Yo Yo. What's up homeboys? Juan, 6'2", dark brown eyes, black hair, moderately hairy, college student, 24, very masculine, track and field. Peace, brother man. # 3797. (40)

Mexican-American, 42, 5'8", 220 lbs., goodlooking, intellectual, adventurous, masculine, looking for friends for movies, concerts, cooking, travel, good times, any race, 33-45. Matthew. # 3798. (40)

Black male, 30, 5'9", 160 lbs., light brown, hazel eyes, moustache, attractive, top, hung 10", looking for black male with toned bodies. Let's get together. Edward. # 3804. (40)

Honest, 31, 5'2", 134, HIV-, Herpes+, looking for men who are open, understanding and really do care. Ricky. # 3722. (40)

Dark skinned, 5'9 1/2", 185, chunky, muscular, gym, no drugs or smoke. You should be masculine, well hung 10" or more, to kick it with and have a good time. Keith. # 3774. (40)

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Whats up, boyz? I'm not looking for romance or a relationship, I've already got that. What I'm looking for is good safe sex. My lover and I like to get together with other goodlooking black men like us. We'd like you to come visit our bedroom. # 3779. (40)

Black/Filipino/Hispanic, 26, 5'10", 155 lbs., 7" uncut, looking for friend. John. # 3783. (40)

Latino, 32, 5'11", 185 lbs., looking to get together to play around with some black men. I'm 100% top. Rico. # 3822. (40)

Nope, you're wrong, there's one left. Very attractive, affectionate, mixed BM, 21, 5'9", 250#, seeks attractive, straight acting, BM 21-29 for friendship with foundation for relationship. Your photo gets mine. # 3737. # 193. (40)

Chinese-Filipino, 5'5", Ph.D. scholar at USC, looks like an undergrad, smooth-skinned, HIV-, husky, with a very handsome face. I love to receive head. Possible relationship OK. Antonio. # 3775. # 199. (40)

WM, 40+, 5'10", 185#, brown eyes, tall and pepper hair and beard, professional, seeks good looking, mature, honest, and sincere BM for fun and possible relationship. Enjoy the beach and mountains. # 3772. # 197. (40)

BM, 25, HIV+, nice, smooth, versatile body with nice ass and soft lips, moving to Los Angeles in October, wants guys/couples, any race, for sex/friendship. # 3762. # 198. (40)

WM, 28, handsome, 32" waist, 42" chest, black hair, brown eyes, 170, muscular, smooth, looking for big BM with a huge piece who will have me on my knees servicing. # 3661. (40)

WM, 34, 6', 168 lbs., trim body, short brown hair, big moustache, hazel eyes, 8", West Hollywood area. Looking for handsome men to 40 with trim bodies. Muscles a +. I'm versatile and definitely very oral. Joe. # 3710. (40)

Mixed black/Mexican, hot, 37, 5'9", 150#, 8 1/2", dark skin, curly hair, seeks man who is versatile and likes to get down and do anything. I like big dicks to service. Larry. # 3711. (40)

GM, 35, 5'10", medium brown complexion, hazel eyes, attractive, intellectual, spiritual, looking for romance. Let's talk and then take it from there. Dwayne. # 3667. (40)

African-American, 28, 5'7", alluring, sexy, masculine, toned body. I love movies, photography and the creative arts. I'm in search of a goodlooking serious minded black man who I can spend quality time with. Mark. # 3669. (40)

Hello, brothers. I'm T. I just like to go get busy. If you'd like to also, leave a message and I'll get back with you. # 3703. (40)

Sexy healthy black man desired by GL

blond GWM. Object: your pleasure. Black and white together is best. Call or write me. You'll enjoy. Alex. # 3316. (40)

Mexican, 40, bottom, seeks well-endowed black man to talk and whatever. Francisco. # 3670. (40)

Dark-skinned bottom looking for that special top. I'm Stefan, 37, goodlooking, 5'8", nice gym build. You should be taller (6'+), well endowed and enjoy movies, beach and spending time with me. # 3673. (40)

Fat, fast and fabulous GWM, 31, 6', 285 pounds, blond/blue, built like John Candy but looks much better, lives in Silverdale. I'm looking for a sincere, honest, romantic, warm man. I'm G/P, F/A/P. Baby's got back! # 3675. (40)

Congo-born European, goodlooking, with green-blue eyes, 33, 5'10", 175, muscular, nice butt, discreet, safe, seeks intelligent, tall, huge, very muscular black bodybuilder over 200 lbs. for friendship. # 3668. (40)

GBM, 30, 5'8", 165, light-skin, top man, HIV negative, looking to meet other GBM for lover or friends. Good looking A plus. Let's hook up. Jeff. # 3555. # 183. (40)

Wanted: Horny healthy black man by blond GWM. Needed: Your black cock and butt. Alex. 818-896-8890. (39)

Goodlooking, GBM seeks Latin or Asian, 25-40. We are both intelligent, creative. No drugs, alcohol, smokers. Not looking for straight acting; your masculinity is natural. You aren't looking for a rice queen, a daddy, or a big black buck, but a peer to converse with, have coffee, dance, and...? # 189. (40)

Sexy, black male, 20 years old, straight-acting, seeking same, masculine, not N 2 club scene, 18-30, homies possible. # 3683. (40)

I need someone really bad! Are you really bad? 7 1/2" can be yours. Black, 5'7" to 6'2" only. D.P. Box 84174, L.A., CA. 90073. (38)

GWM, BB, goodlooking, masculine, 6'2", 200, 46°C, 17A, 32W, hot humpy bottom, red hot butt, HIV+, seeks black men only, over 40, dominate tops who know how to take what they want, should definitely know how to enjoy it. 714-847-9722. (38)

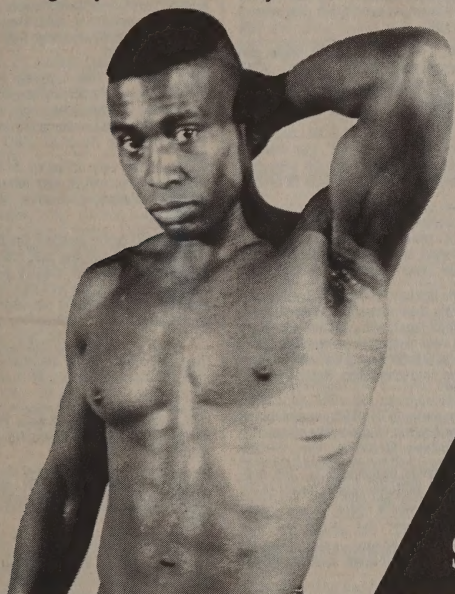
4 gentle BM. Classic, tall, slender, intelligent, socially-aware, artistic, gentle, wise, creative, well-travelled, affectionate, well-read, vintage Euro-American, 47, into travelling, piano, arts, photography, available 4 slim/med bit BM. # 3550. (40)

Muscular black male, 35, 6', 190, mostly bottom, seeks big 6'+, 200+, masculine non-American black/Latino male for companionship, conversation and safe fun. No hard drugs/alcohol. # 3566. # 184. (40)

BLACKfire

the new erotic male magazine featuring the images and experiences of black men will set you ablaze with sizzling short stories and fierce photography.

BLACKfire brings you the best looking African-American men in all their muscle bound glory that'll make your mouth water.



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BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

Baby's got back! I'm a GWM, 34, 5'11", 185, HIV-, blond/blue, looking for masculine black top into bubble butts. 40s, hunky/ husky a plus. # 185. (39)

BM, 5'11", 170, well endowed, HIV neg., seeks tall black horny bottom into safe sex and bodybuilding. Robert. # 186. (38)

Afrocentric male seeks sincere hue-man of African descent, who's melanin skin is soft to touch, sensual to smell, erotic to see and passionate to taste. # 3610. # 187. (40)

GWM, caring, artist, overweight, decent, 5'11", 190, 41, HIV-, has butt, 6", and passion for life available to someone sensitive, HIV-, who defines himself by more than his organ size. # 3657. (40)

BGM, healthy, goodlooking and safe, seeks Asian couples for 3-ways in L.A. area. # 3635. (40)

Mixed Chinese/black, 24, wants to spend quality time with someone special to kick it with. Interested in sports, playing ball Saturday mornings at USC and going out. Tauren. # 3589. (40)

Hi my name is Ed. I'm black, tall, bow-legged, handsome. I love to mingle and I love to party. # 3604. (40)

T.C., black, 5'11", 160, athletic, medium build, 26, light-brown complexion, good-looking, like checking out the movies, gym, sports. Live in Compton. Looking for someone who's down to earth, who likes to just hangout, who's masculine and who's not into the club scene. If this is you, call and leave a message. # 3612. (40)

WARNING TO READERS

Postal authorities offer these guidelines to help prevent you from becoming a victim of financial scams occasionally initiated by prisoners:

1. Any type of financial arrangement entered into with an inmate should be highly suspect, especially those in which the inmate requests financial favors, i.e., cashing postal money orders.
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Although most prisoners are honest, we strongly advise readers to use caution when corresponding with inmates.

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Latin bottom, 35, 5'11", 165, masculine, handsome, slim, toned, enjoys movies, bike-riding, hiking, evenings at home having fabulous, freaky safe sex. Looking for BM top, with 9+", uncult A+. No bull. 213-654-2026. (38)

I'm not perfect, but parts of me are excellent! Beautiful 7½" B/cock wants black caresses. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA. 90073. (38)

Yo Yo Yo, whats up my brothers, my name is Lucky and I'm hoping to get just that. I'm pretty much a straight up homie from the 'hood, but I like to get busy with this program every now and then. You should be from the 'hood, versatile, a brother and ready to get down with the program. # 3598. (40)

Muscular, educated, very Afrocentric male, 5'9½", wants to check out real brothers and maybe hangout. Brent. # 3569. (40)

GM, 6'1", brown skin, green eyes, curly hair, looking to meet BM, 24-30, top who likes to have a good time, aggressive, good personality and likes to converse. Damien. # 3586. (40)

Gay male, 5'11", 175, very lean muscular stud, looking to meet goodlooking guys under 35, fit and in good shape with 10" or more for hot body contact. Rob. # 3627. (40)

Gay male, 35, 6', 190 lbs of fun. Seek Latin or black men of similar size or bigger. Ron. # 3566. (40)

Gay male, 6'1", 182, muscular body, 9-1/2", real thick, very goodlooking seeks goodlooking muscular studs under 35 with a foot long sausage for group scenes. Steve. # 3629. (40)

Black professional, 5'9", 170, very athletic, ex-military, well educated, sincere, financially secure, well-built workout, looking for prof. black male, masculine, athletic, muscular into sports, travelling, music and well endowed for dating or relationship. Michael. # 3575. (40)

If you're black and interested in a compact bodybuilder, hairy, big bubble-but, large piece, then I'm the one for you. I'm 5'8", 150, mixture of French and Puerto Rican, short black hair, green eyes and lots of energy. I'm a serious MF. # 3613. (40)

You've got what it takes! Can I take a little? 7½" wants black cakes (safe). David Payne, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (38)

Search is on: Handsome, professional BM, 34, 5'8", 145. Bored with swimming in the cesspool of L.A. club/bar scene. Looking to meet a sexy, intelligent, culturally aware man, 30-40, for music, movies and hopefully much more. # 188. (40)

Wanted: Horny healthy black man by blond GWM. Object: Your pleasure. Call Lee 818-896-8890. (38)

BGM, 25, 6'3", 190, good looking, likes

going to gym, movies, sports, reading. Hollywood area. Let's rap. Richard. # 3459. (39)

Where is the beef? I know that the answer is in you, owners of Big Black Delicatessen, meaning 10"x5" or larger. If you really are interested in a Hispanic American man who is 5'9", 35 years old, 150 pounds, 29" waist, bronzed complexion, etc., write to Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. Telephone number available upon request. (39)

Light brown, 5'9", medium build, muscular, enjoys movies, dinner. Versatile. Gene. # 3460. (39)

Cuban, 6'4", green eyes, blond, seeks dark-skinned black male, extremely well hung that loves to lay back and get serviced. No need to reciprocate. The bigger the better. Carlos. # 3467. (39)

BM, 33, 6'3", 215, athletic, football player type build, well endowed, medium complexion, seeks under 35, endowed. In shape Latin A+. No hangups. Peace. Damien. # 3406. (39)

Slim, lean BM from Texas, 6'2", 165 lbs. Let's reach out and touch. (I'm horny.) # 3409. (39)

BGM, 37, 5'6", 155, loves to mingle, give Dwayne a call. # 3117. (38)

BGM, 6', 40, masculine bottom likes hard body tops who like to freak. Eddy. # 3124. (38)

Black brother, 160#, 5'8", gym member looking for partner who is also gym member for workouts. Peace! # 3125. (38)

Attractive, 5'9", 160#, 21, live alone, dark brown skin, nice build, well endowed, seeks brothers who know how to kick it and be safe. Jay. # 3411. (39)

White bottom, 29, 5'9", 145#, very good-looking masculine HIV-athletic mountain bicyclist racer, with very well developed and very clean-shaven legs/butt, seeks BM athletic HIV-hung 9+ and thick for some hard long riding. Scott: 714-222-4931. (38)

Gay male, 6'3", 195, seeks black masculine top. You won't be disappointed. Anthony. # 3305. (38)

Dark blonde, blue eyes, 5'11", 190, bubble-but bottom, seeks quality black tops. Gordon. # 3307. (38)

GWM, 35, 6'2", 195, athletic, attractive, financially secure, enjoys sports, movies, new to area, seek BM 20-40. # 3324. (38)

Edwardo, 34, 5'10", 160, light brown skin, short hair, goodlooking, homebody, top man, looking for someone to workout with in more ways than one. # 3322. (38)

Yo! Yo! Yo! Jeff ½ black and ½ Puerto Rican, suburbs of Detroit, 10" piece, waiting and ready to do the wild thing with other homeboys. # 3328. (38)

BM 25, 5'10", 165, whatup? Masculine looking for same. # 3337. (38)

Black men are nicer, sexier, and more fun. Call or write to this good-looking blond and prove it. Lee. # 3316. # 162. (38)

Handsome black man, straight appearing, sexy with dancer's build, 5'8", 150#, well groomed, short hair, beard, moustache, hairy, hot and loves sex, wants sexy top black or masculine bottom in shape. # 3336. # 166. (38)

Slender, tall, ebony artist, seeks aggressive man. No boozers or losers, no thugs or drugs, no chubbies or huddies.

Eugene. # 3373. (38)

Gay male, 26, 6'3", 190, brown skin, attractive, enjoys hitting the gym, mountain biking, movies, hiking. Looking for someone similar. Richard. # 3372. (38)

BM, 42 y/o, 5'9", 170, workout with weights, looking for big buff brothers. I like to massage from traps to toes. Dale. # 3368. (38)

Gay male, 38, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce, 310-674-4489. (TF)

Young hot black buck, seeks top hot black urban cowboy to teach me the finer points of riding 6'2", 190 lbs. of black/ Hispanic man. I'll supply the saddle. You bring the boots and the riding crop. Lauren. # 3115. (38)

B/M, 6', 185, muscular, masculine, attractive B/M seeks BM/WM 22-30. Michael. # 3008. (38)

WM, 5'7", 165, med build, brown/ blue, very sensual bottom, great massage, seek HIV-, attractive, hung, well built BM. Ron. # 3341. (38)

BGM, 33, 5'10", 160, hung top seeks BM, attractive, who knows where he's going in life. Possible relationship. Enjoy movies, video, bike riding. Edwardo. # 3369. (38)

Robert, GBM, very attractive, to meet intelligent, responsible, very attractive hot top for relationship, romance, dating. # 3363. (38)

Exhibitionists unite: amateur photographer looking for in shape, well endowed blacks and Latinos for models. Trade photos (artistic only) for your time. Shots à la Ritts, Weber. Show me what you have! Call Ted: 213-224-0243. (38)

BM, 30, 5'11", 150#, into sports, bicycling, travel; looking for masculine top man, any race. Call Lonnell. # 3106. (38)

Gay male, 6'2", 190, 26 y.o., seeks mascu line, tall, independent top. Warren. # 3115. (38)

Black men practicing Black Magic/ Satanism, write: Exu, Box 452, 1626 N. Wilcox, Hollywood, CA 90028. No conflicts. (38)

Commitment and values: B/M, 48, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, L.A. 90071, 213-243-9882. (39)

Men's Personals—DC

BM, 31, HIV+, 5'10", 165, well-built, athletic, interested in meeting other brothers same height or taller. You should have varied interests, should be diverse in thought and political ideology. Harvey. # 3759. (40)

Black wrestler looking for others masculine guys into hot and sweaty wrestling action in swim trunks, jocks, etc. Long man to man, erotic wrestling action and oil wrestling. Box 91428, Washington, DC 20090-1428, or call 202-291-0907. (38)

Men's Personals—FL

Handsome black man, 36, 6'1", 180 lbs., bodybuilder, great definition, very well endowed, masculine. Works out regular-

ly, professional, sports-minded, easy-going. Seeks very well defined, lean, muscular white man with great legs for friend/companion. Out of state replies welcome. Can travel. ☎ 3704. (40)

Gay male, 6'1", dark-skinned, looking for friends. Masculine and white A+. Kent. ☎ 3633. (40)

GBM, 5'9", 160, 29, Miami area. Hobbies include reading, music, hanging out at home. Want to meet someone who is masculine, aggressive, and enjoys some one who likes to take care of his man. Chris. ☎ 3562. (40)

Hot BM, 25-year-old, well-endowed, Tampa area. ☎ 3375. (38)

Black, 24, 5'10", 155, very attractive, muscular, masculine seeks others. Mitch. ☎ 3359. (38)

BM, 24, seeks GM, 18-30. Enjoy movies, music, sports, good times. Lee. ☎ 3393. (39)

Men's Personals—GA

What's up fellas? I'm Darryl, 6'1", brown skin, very active, safe, discrete, HIV-. If you're a brother who's down with being safe, give me a call. ☎ 3693. (40)

GBM, 20, medium build, light skin, love travel, movies. I want a friendship and possible relationship, so please call and leave your phone number. I love being a bottom. No questions asked. You should be a GBM, 18-35. My name is Ricardo. ☎ 3706. (40)

Afrocentric BM, 20, 5'11", 180, HIV-, bi, college student, slinging 10". Seek 18-30, black, hung, combat boots, boxer shorts, baggy jeans, bald head or dreads. Can you take a 40 and be intelligent...then we can get very nasty. I'm out. ☎ 3558. (40)

GWM couple, 27 and 29, into self-fellatio, seeking black picture exchange. Send video, pix, letter to S.F.C., 461 N. Highland Ave. #2, Atlanta, GA 30307. (38)

Gay male, 29 and very, very good-looking. I'm ready, willing and able to please a black stud. Call me when you're ready, I'm waiting. Joseph. ☎ 3626. (192) (40)

Atlanta. Seek guys who are versatile, witty and ready to party. We can get it on. I'm 5'9", 155, Don. ☎ 3453. (39)

GWM, 49, 5'5 1/2" 168 lbs, healthy HIV+, kind, loving, medium build, blue eyes, speech impaired, into music, like basketball, bowling, dining out, and spending quiet evenings at home. Seeking and looking for that special GBM who is friendly, honest, masculine, and affectionate for companionship and possible relationship. Must be into safe sex and no drugs. Serious only. No feds or feds. Please write and send a photo with your phone number or call 404-378-7167. Let me hear from you. Larry. ☎ 3376. (175) (39)

Men's Personals—HI

Hola, my Hispanic brothers! If you're looking for a fun-loving, tall dark and handsome straight-acting, HIV-, African-American who would like to get to know you better, write to me at Box 5146, Kaneohe, HI 96744 and let me know what's up. (38)

Men's Personals—IL

Pro-Wrestling/boxing/fight fanatic. Chi-

cago, GWM, 33, 5'6", hairy, good shape, seeks GBMs into fantasy matches, videos of brutal brawls in/out of the ring. No holds barred fantasies, J/O, winner tops loser. Big men, big-bellied a plus. ☎ 205. (40)

Black, 34, 6'0" 220 lbs, HIV-, smoker, versatile, bright, sincere. In search of a casual friendship with a masculine black male that could develop into a monogamous relationship. ☎ 3805. (203) (40)

College student, 5'11", 155 lbs., slender build, very sexual. I'm in Chicago completing internship for major oil company, if you have new experiences you want to teach me, I'm game! Kenya. ☎ 3744. (40)

35 year old GBM, HIV+ (asymptomatic), professional person. In the final stages of completing my Ph.D. I'm looking for friendship and possible long-term relationship. ☎ 3464. (39)

BM, 29, 6'2", 200, seeks other masculine top BM to kick it with and correspond. Maurice. ☎ 3311. (38)

WM, 37, 5'11", 178, Bill, sports, weights, nice looking, solidly built, seek 37-55, very masculine, loving, 200+, down to earth, non-promiscuous. ☎ 3340. (38)

GWM, 26, 5'8", 160#, HIV+, muscular versatile hot bod, seeks same or top GBM or GHM muscular types only, for hot safe sex play, flexing, scenes, laughs, etc. ☎ 3323. (163) (38)

Men's Personals—IN

BM need only to respond to this. WM, 40, 6'4", 220 lbs., no drugs, no wild scenes. Live alone downtown. Quiet evenings, soft jazz. Any age. Let's just talk. Photo OK. ☎ 3815. (204) (40)

GWM, 29, HIV+, asymptomatic, 6', 185, br/br, moustache, attractive, plays sports, like travelling. Looking for GBM, 25-50, with similar interests, HIV+ for longtime relationship. Joe. ☎ 3649. (40)

GWM physician, 29, 6', 185, br/br, moustache, HIV+ but asymptomatic, attractive, masculine, likes sports, movies, travelling. Seeks GBM, 25-50, also HIV+, with similar interests for possible relationship. Would like someone who could possibly relocate. Career choice not important, but honesty and sincerity are. ☎ 3630. (190) (43)

Men's Personals—LA

I'm ready, willing and able. I'm a black male looking for a black male, 35-45. Harold. ☎ 3766. (40)

WM, 29, 5'7", 160, workout, moderate hairy, beard, brown hair, hazel eyes, masculine seeks someone to get to know. ☎ 3565. (40)

Men's Personals—MA

GWM, 26, 6'1", br/br, clean shaven, masculine, professional, Boston area, seeks GBM, 25-35, goodlooking, in shape, HIV+, top, for safe times. Will be discrete if needed. Jeff. ☎ 3678. (40)

What up? My name is Lang. I'm 19, 5'10", 172, brown skin, low-cut fade, side-burns and trim moustache. I look good and live in Boston. I'm looking for black and Hispanic tops, 18-25, for pen-pals or relationship in Boston, New York or Los Angeles. ☎ 3680. (40)

BM, 29, BM, 5'9", 175 lbs., muscular, clean-shaven, looking for someone spe-

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cial. Benjamin. ☎ 3681. (40)

Gay male, 6', 185, interested in meeting nice young men, any race, 21-30, to talk and hang out. I don't mind travelling to meet you. Shanon. ☎ 3008. (40)

WM, 24, dark hair, blue eyes, looking to service hot BM from Mike Tyson to rapper types. If you're looking for what I'm offering then leave your number in my box and I'll call back discretely. Joey. ☎ 3608. (40)

Men's Personals—MD

Masculine top man, 36, HIV-, affectionate, down to earth, sense of humor, relationship oriented, not into bars, one night stands, smokers or drugs. Interests include politics, working out, sports and music. I'm handsome, brown skinned, have moustache, 5'10", 190 lbs. and stocky. Looking for masculine, together, black male, Hispanic or white male, your personality is most important. Brian. ☎ 3760. (40)

Male, 5'10", 178, very thick and very long, looking for someone to handle it. You should have a big bubble-butt and need some man loving, not just sex. Shank. ☎ 3826. (40)

GBM, 30, 5'6", looking for GBM 20-40, football and basketball players, for some hard action. (181) (38)

Attractive, sexy black male, 5'10", 165, varied interests. Seeks tall, masculine black men 21+ for correspondence or possible relationship. Your photo gets mine. All answered. (182) (39)

Men's Personals—MI

GWM, live in Detroit area, 46, 5'10", 190, hairy body, beard, bottom looking for ideal black soul mate. Tony. ☎ 3823. (40)

BM, 28, seeking other black males between the ages of 24-45. Must be masculine, athletic, bearded and hairy. College students preferred. Latin or Arab men okay. Donald. ☎ 3646. (40)

Bi BM, bottom, seeking young black servicemen, ex-Marines, Army, Navy, wrestlers, bald a +. Also looking for ruff tuff street butch types. Donald. ☎ 3714. (40)

Light-skinned BM, 38, single, shy, movies, sports, politics. Not very experienced, but love being gay. Interested in someone nice and together. James. ☎ 3628. (40)

Whatup? D.J., versatile black single male looking for a little fun. If you're down with that why don't you give me a message. Peace. ☎ 3571. (40)

BM, 28, looking for BM, 25-45, must be very masculine, athletic, hairy and/or bearded, college students preferred. You must be top and butch and know how to take control. Tony. ☎ 3587. (40)

Light-skinned male, 5'9 1/2", hazel eyes. If you're interested in meeting someone who is down to earth, loves to cook, movies, non-promiscuous, call and leave a message. Tim. ☎ 3573. (40)

GBM, 5'11", 185, very attractive, muscular, enjoys communicating, eating, music, sports and working out, seeks GBM muscular with same interest. No feds, feds need apply. K. Anderson, Box 14626, Detroit MI 48214. (39)

BM, 35, 6'1", 220 pounds seeks tall BM into bodybuilding, nice looking, athletic. Al. ☎ 3471. (39)

GBM, 5'11", 170, 23, slender, nice build, would like to meet other black or Latino men 23-30, you must be educated and knowledgeable. Andre. ☎ 3320. (38)

I love to talk on the phone, would like to meet someone special. James. ☎ 3097. (38)

What's up? I love to rub. I'm black and hot. Let's get together and party. Seek black men only. Kevin. ☎ 3441. (39)

Men's Personals—MO

St. Louis area. Male, 6'2", 210 lbs., bottom, attractive, have medium complexion, and like to have fun. Anthony. ☎ 3682. (40)

BM, 37, St. Louis area, interested in meeting other guys for friendship, fun, good times, play, talking, thinking, laughing, hanging out, getting close, getting to know each other. Rudy. ☎ 3618. (40)

African-American male, 30, 5'7", 155 lbs., straight-acting, educated, athletic build, works out, enjoys music, movies, outdoor travel, science, bowling, and quite evenings seeks attractive African-American, Caribbean/Jamaican or Nigerian straight-acting educated male 25-55 years old. Leave detail message or send letter or photo. Dan. ☎ 3786. (195) (40)

GWM, 27, 6'1", 175, blond/brown, moustache, versatile bottom, St. Louis area, seeks exciting goodlooking black guys. ☎ 3342. (38)

Men's Personals—NJ

I'm a GBM, brown skin, 220 lbs., 6'2", teddy bear and looking for serious relationship. HIV-. Looking for GBM, tall dark and very muscular with large thighs and legs. Have to like tight jeans and sneakers on himself. HIV- and no queens. ☎ 3825. (202) (40)

Horny GWM seeks phone action with local guys. I'm 24, Irish construction worker, but not always a top. Let's set a time to melt the phone lines. Photo/letter. ☎ 3728. (194) (40)

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Men's Personals—NY

Cultured, quiet, elderly black gent, retired (68); very short, stocky, serving; seeks senior Afro-American males, 50-plus, in NYC area, who are tall, vigorous, masculine, aggressive. Dave R., 830 Grand Concourse #6B, Bronx, NY 10451. 718-681-0179. Call only 8 p.m.-midnight. (39)

BM, 6', beard, looking to meet serious-minded brothers. Peace. Ed. 3817. (40)

Gay black male, 33, looking for good time or possible relationship with GBM, 35-40. Kenny. 3818. (40)

Brooklynite, 30, 6', 170 lbs., brown complexion, toned body. Interested in meeting community conscious brothers of African descent only, 30+, secure sense of themselves, emotionally mature, not afraid to communicate their needs. Call Savage. 3809. (40)

Aggressive, easy going, very masculine, enjoys boxing, movies, plays and kicking it at home with someone special. You should be very masculine, 20-45 years old, big, heavyset, tall, homebody with basketball/football player look. Mike. 3644. (40)

GBM, 24 seeks other GBMs for safe group sex. Horny black men or well-endowed men are A+. 3574. (40)

BB, 45, Italian-Polish, 198, healthy, HIV+, versatile, 6', average endowment, hairy, handsome, moustache, seeks lean versatile GBM with well defined muscles, 35 to 55 into weights. Photo to Box 6A, 111 Montague St., Brooklyn NY 11201. (39)

GBM, 35, bottom, would like to meet GM top. Must be in fairly good shape, under 40 years old. Call James at 718-803-3906. (38)

Hi. My name is Raymond. I'm a GBM, 32, 5'7", 187 lbs., HIV+, Cancerian ISO dialogue with compatible, hairy, tall, GWM for lover/relationship. No additions. Leos, Taurus men a +. 3444. 174. (39)

GBHM, sincere, honest, attractive, 26, masculine, muscular, romantic, interested in all minorities who are into friendship with possible relationship. You should be masculine and drug free. 3470. (39)

BM, 32, 5'10", 190, muscular build, military, new to New England area, seeks WM 25-45. Monty. 3004. (38)

Tall, goodlooking, wants to date a black guy. Michael. 3099. (38)

Attractive PR, 41, 140#, 5'11", interested in meeting blacks (African, American, West Indian including Rastas) and fair to dark skinned PRs, Dominicanos, Arabs and Brazilians for fun and friendship. Must be top, hung 8+, clean, straight looking/acting, discreet, able to keep an erection with condom on. Age/height

unimportant. No bottoms, fats, collect or j/o calls, solicitors or hustlers. NYC residents or visitors to this area only. Call Lou, 718-271-0832, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. or leave mess. (38)

BM seeks BM, 25-35, for fun and excitement. Let's hang out. Troy. 3443. (39)

GBM, 32, 5'7", 187, HIV+, Cancerian, seeks tall hairy GWM for relationship. No additions. Leos, Taurus A+. Raymond. 3444. (39)

Men's Personals—NC

GWM, 40, 5'8", 165, dark hair, beard, writer, serious, romantic, seeks ebony prince charming, 23-35, slim to medium build for monogamous relationship. 3634. (40)

Men's Personals—OH

Seeking GBM. This GWM, 36, 5'11", 155, is searching for black friend/roommate/lover. I'm sincere, honest, quiet and faithful. You can be tall or short, but not overweight. Sex is not important, but a serious relationship is. I will treat you like you've never been treated before. Respond with letter/photo to Ron, Box 141023, Dayton OH 45414. Penpals welcome. (38)

GBM, 6'1", 185, 37, HIV+, healthy, handsome, hairy nice build, varied interests, seek a masculine GM who has it together. Write me. Plenty of life left to live onwards and upwards. 3631. 191. (40)

BM, 27, Scott, seeks Latins, PR, Arabs, BM in Cleveland area. 3308. (38)

Men's Personals—OK

GBM seeks other men in Tulsa area for romantic times. Masculine, tall, thin, handsome. Caesar. 3456. (39)

Men's Personals—PA

Gay male, 6'11/2", 44# chest, 31" waist, looking for extremely tall black brothers, 6'2"-7", homebody look with athletic build, African, rastas, ex-prisoners, top, 8' or more, discrete. Ramone. 3816. (40)

Whats up my Nubian brothers? I'm 27, 5'7", 200 lbs., in shape. I like to travel, hike, bike, read, hang and you know what I mean by "hang." I'm about the positive, not the negative. 3807. (40)

GM, 32, 5'9", 200 lbs., professional, romantic, Cancerian, active in church, enjoy clubs now and then. T. 3655. (40)

GBM, 25, 5'6", bodybuilder, bottom, love to have sex. Looking for nice looking brothers who like to get down with a good looking BG, Russell. 3709. (40)

Yo. My name is T. I'm 5'9", 195, pleas-

ingly plump, 32 and professional. Looking for someone that is real, romantic, sexy dominant, fun and likes good rubdowns. If you're the one then call my mailbox. 3600. (40)

BM, 6'1", 198, sexy would like to meet other sharp looking guys who like to get it on with me. I like to go to parks and have fun, if you're down with that call me. Gerald. 3623. (40)

Yo guys, Brian here, 30, 5'9", 155, blond flat-top, hazel eyes, ex-marine, Pittsburg area, looking for clean cut masculine straight up black guys 21-35 for good clean fun. 3620. (40)

BM, 32, 5'9", 170, light brown, seeks black men ages 25-35, non-smoker, must be a man, no feds, no drugs, no games. Be romantic, caring, honest and real. No fats, no sugar daddys—just straight up about us. 3365. 172. (38)

Men's Personals—SC

GM, 23, enjoys writing poetry, dancing, singing, hanging out with friends. Avery. 3730. (40)

Masculine, discrete, African-American brother, slim build, nice looking, medium brown, into sports, movies, arts, seeks friendship, possible relationship with masculine, muscular, handsome, black brother who is athletic, bodybuilder type. Hairy a +, with a big plump black man's butt. There it is. Dwayne. 3696. (40)

Men's Personals—TN

African-American male, very attractive, 6'1", fantastic personality, journalist, live in Nashville. Into movies, music and fun. Seeks someone for fun and romance. Lorenzo. 3572. (40)

Men's Personals—TX

African-American bottom, 31, 6'3", 230 lbs., light complexion, seeks well endowed top men of color for serious dating, possible relationship. Bowlegs or blue-black complexion a definite plus. 3868. 206. (40)

GBM, 19, wanting to meet an attractive, sincere relationship-oriented black masculine male between the ages of 24 and 32. Interests include good sense of humor, open minded, spending quality time. No dead beats! 3866. (40)

Masculine, muscular, well-endowed top, professional, seek tall 6'6" +, muscular, professional GBM bottom for passionate safe sex or possible relationship. 30-50, HIV-only. Robert. 3770. (40)

I'm looking for a big muscular BM, body builder, football build type. I'm 25, light skinned, 6'2", 170 lbs., basketball player build, very masculine and I travel all over the country. 3741. (40)

BM, 26, 5'11", 170 lbs., dark skin, bow-legged, licensed registered nurse. I'm interested in meeting young, 18-24, black and Hispanic guys who take pride in your self and your appearance. I live in Houston. Lee. 3742. (40)

GWM, 39, 6'1", over 300 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, moustache. Are you looking for more than a one night stand? Call Terry from Dallas. 3791. (40)

GBM, bottom, looking for top action from black masculine male. Peace out Jeff. 3795. (40)

BM, 6'3", 230, 30 years old, light complexion, bottom, seeking dominant mil-

tary or blue collar type. Must be well-endowed. You should have a dark complexion and interested in serious dating or relationship. John. 3796. (40)

GBM 165 lbs., 5'10" educated, endowed, seek other blacks, P.R. for hot safe sex. No fakes, pretenters or feds. Only positive sincere men need reply. Photos get mine. 201. (40)

Professional, BGM, 5'7", 26, body and facial hair, seeking top man for fun and friendship and possible relationship. Enjoy conversation, candlelight dinners, theater. You should be comfortable with your life style. You should love life and love to live it. Terry. 3702. (40)

GBM, 5'11", 185 lbs., 38, clean-cut, moustache, homebody, HIV+. I'm into reading and working out. Seeking monogamous relationship. No games. 3383. (39)

GWM, blonde, blue, bottom, 5'10", 188 lbs., 38, looks younger. Seeking any race slim top-man; bi ok. Write with photo to Boxholder, Box 90008, San Antonio, TX 78209-9008. (41)

Houston BM, 38, seeking African-American males, 18-40 who are very much into bodybuilding with huge muscle-bound bodies. 3410. (39)

Looking for a hot "man" of color with the best looking masculine round smooth "man" built out there and a hot pair of legs to go along with it. Bow legs a plus! I am attractive WM, hairy, hot and hung, with runner's legs. Box 7415, Dallas, TX 75209. (38)

GBM, 5'10", 190, brown complexion, wear glasses, date haircut, likes to party at home, seeks to meet couples for fun. Clark. 3445. (39)

Men's Personals—VA

Attractive GBM, 29, artist, 5'8", 145, HIV+, in good health. Seeks attractive, well built, masculine homebody of black or white color to share interest in music, weightlifting, workouts, theater, African art, sports, cooking, reading, intimate evenings and more serious about life and living it with an open mind and have hopes in a stimulating relationship. Then send photo and letter to Box 3216, Reston, VA 22090. (38)

Men's Personals—WA

Very goodlooking, BM, 6'3", 195 lbs., 28, facial hair, seek rough trade, black, Latin or Arab, discrete, big legs and thighs A+. I live in Northwest but visit Southern California often. Kerry. 3781. (40)

BM, 6', 165, athletic runners build, aspiring BB, new to Seattle area, looking for a few friends to show me around. Sam. 3579. (40)

Single, tall, dark, handsome. I like to get out and go to concerts, plays, darts, drinking, enjoy Jimi Hendrix, Stones, clas sical, country, 4X4s, motorcycles, chess. I'm looking for someone to talk to. Jerry. 3621. (40)

Men's Personals—WI

Between 21-40? African-American, Puerto Rican, other? Goal oriented? Passionate? Endowed at least 8-1/2" and thick? Attuned to social justice? I am 43, GHM, 5'10", Blk/Bm, 225#, seeking intimacy and friendship. Respond to all, will return photos. Mark, Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (39)

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Men's Activities

213•993•7430 for more info.

December 1993

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Women's Activities

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FOR MORE INFO. CALL 213 993 7430	THE CENTER L.A. GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER <i>Happy Holidays</i>	•M.E.N.'s MEETING WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THE CENTER? 8-10 PM •LIVE TO WRITE, WRITE TO LIVE 7-10 PM •HIP HOP DANCE 8-10 PM	1	2 •THURSDAY NITE OUT SELF-ESTEEM/ SELF LOVE 8-10 PM •COLORS OF LIFE 7-9:30 PM	3 •OUT ON THE SCREEN VIDEO SHOWING 8 PM: "SISTAH ACTION 1" (BLACK LESBIAN VIDEOS)	4 •HEALING OUR ... 10 AM - 12:30 PM •FLEX YOUR WRITING MUSCLE 12:30-2:30 PM •BUILDING WORD BRIDGES 2-4:30 PM •COOKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS † 12-5 PM •CAREER EXPLORATIONS 10 AM - NOON
•BISEXUAL RAP: CO-GENDER GROUP 2-4 PM •COFFEE TALK 5-7 PM 5	•M.E.N.'s MEETING YOUTHS AND MEN TOGETHER 8-10 PM 6	•M.E.N.'s MEETING COMING OUT OPEN RAP 8-10 PM •HEALER, HEAL THYSELF 8-10 AM •ART OF ROMANTIC TOUCH 8-10 PM •VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION 8-10 PM •ZEN MEDITATION 8-9:30 PM 7	8 •M.E.N.'s MEETING TO BE GAY AND JEWISH 8-10 PM •LIVE TO WRITE, WRITE TO LIVE 7-10 PM •HIP HOP DANCE 8-10 PM	9 •THURSDAY NITE OUT SEXUAL EXPRESSION IN OUR CHILDHOOD 8-10 PM •COLORS OF LIFE 7-9:30 PM	10 •TOPS & BOTTOMS (CLOSED RAP) 8-10 PM •BISEXUAL RAP: MEN'S GROUP 8-10 PM	11 •HEALING OUR COMMUNITY 10 AM - 12:30 PM •FLEX YOUR WRITING MUSCLE 12:30-2:30 •BUILDING WORD BRIDGES 2-4:30 PM
•LITTLE FRIDA'S GRAND OPENING PARTY 3-8 PM 12	•M.E.N.'s MEETING GAY ACTIVISM FROM BOYCOTTS TO ZAPS 8-10 PM 13	•M.E.N.'s MEETING COMING OUT OPEN RAP 8-10 PM •HEALER, HEAL THYSELF 8-10 AM •ZEN MEDITATION 8-9:30 PM 14	•M.E.N.'s MEETING BODY IMAGE 8-10 PM •LIVE TO WRITE, WRITE TO LIVE 7-10 PM •HIP-HOP DANCE 8-10 PM 15	•THURSDAY NITE OUT FAMILY VALUES 8-10 PM •COLORS OF LIFE 7-9:30 PM •INVENTOR'S WORKSHOP: GOTTA GREAT IDEA? 7-10 PM •VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION 8-10 PM 16	•TOPS & BOTTOMS (CLOSED RAP) 8-10 PM •SAFE HOT & DAMN EROTIC SEX 7-10 PM 17	18 •HEALING OUR COMMUNITY 10 AM - 12:30 PM •FLEX YOUR WRITING MUSCLE 12:30-2:30 PM •BUILDING WORD BRIDGES 2-4:30 PM
•MAYBE BABY 10 AM - NOON •BISEXUAL RAP: CO-GENDER GROUP 2-4 PM •WINTER SOLSTICE MEDITATION 3 PM 19	•M.E.N.'s MEETING GAY CULTURE, GAY HISTORY 8-10 PM 20	•M.E.N.'s MEETING COMING OUT OPEN RAP 8-10 PM •HEALER, HEAL THYSELF 8-10 AM •ART OF ROMANTIC TOUCH 8-10 PM •ZEN MEDITATION 8-9:30 21	•M.E.N.'s MEETING INTERACIAL DIALOG 8-10 PM •LIVE TO WRITE, WRITE TO LIVE 7-10 PM •HIP-HOP DANCE 8-10 PM 22	•THURSDAY NITE OUT OUT FOR THE HOLIDAYS! 8-10 PM •COLORS OF LIFE 7-9:30 PM 23	CENTER CLOSED 24	CENTER CLOSED 25
•FULL MOON MEDITATION 3 PM 26	•M.E.N.'s MEETING SETTING PERSONAL GOALS 8-10 PM 27	•M.E.N.'s MEETING COMING OUT OPEN RAP 8-10 PM •HEALER, HEAL THYSELF 8-10 AM •ZEN MEDITATION 8-9:30 PM 28	•M.E.N.'s MEETING THE YEAR IN REVIEW 8-10 PM •LIVE TO WRITE, WRITE TO LIVE 7-10 PM •HIP-HOP DANCE 8-10 PM 29	•THURSDAY NITE OUT PLANNING FOR A YEAR OF PRIDE 8-10 PM •LIVE TO WRITE, WRITE TO LIVE 7-10 PM 30	CENTER CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR 31	

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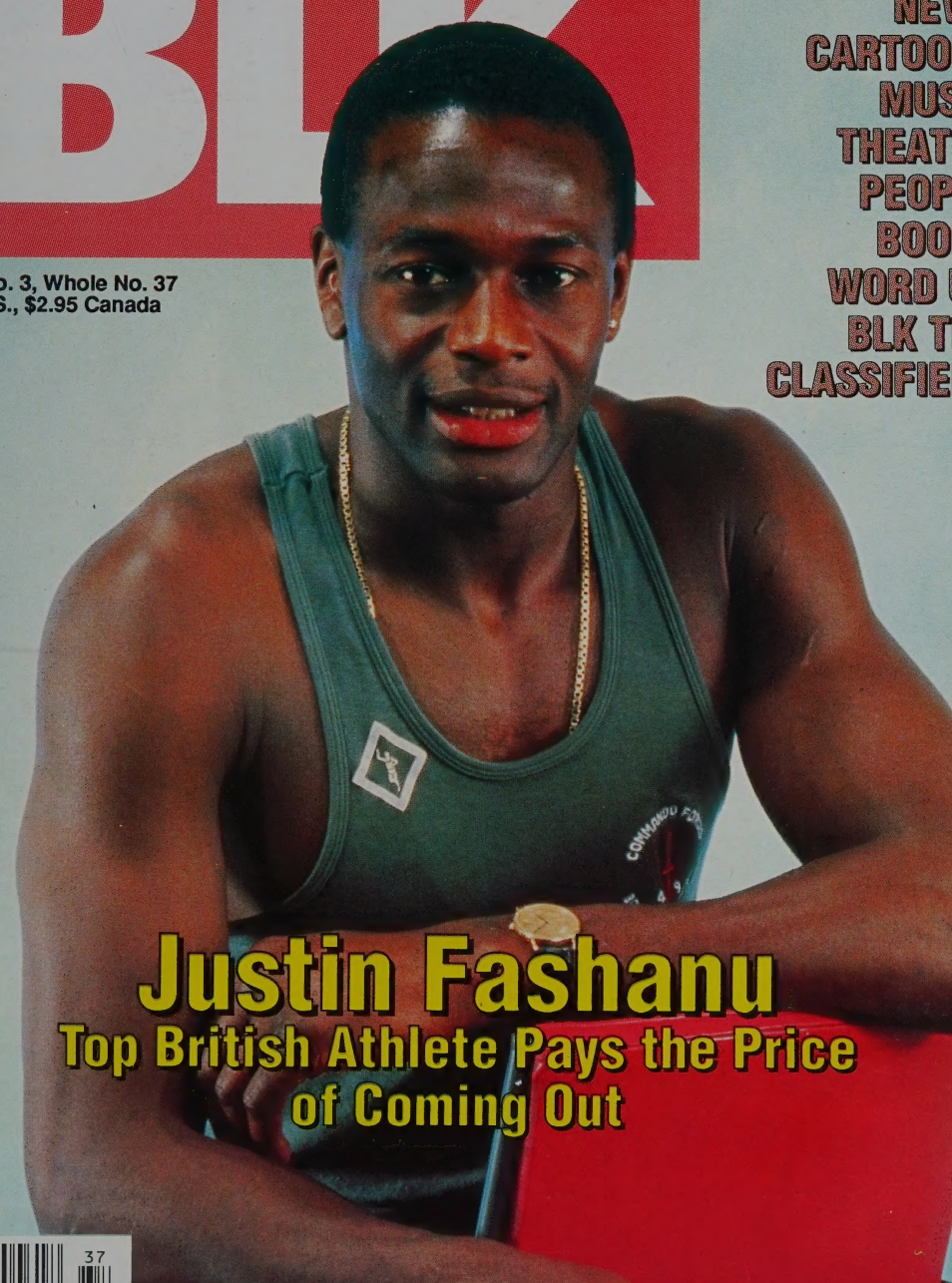


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CLASSIFIEDS

Vol. 4, No. 3, Whole No. 37
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A photograph of Justin Fashanu, a Black man, sitting and leaning forward. He is wearing a green tank top with a small white logo on the left chest and a gold chain necklace. He is holding a red object, possibly a chair or a bag, in front of him. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Justin Fashanu

Top British Athlete Pays the Price
of Coming Out

37



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WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

AFRICAN FROGS GO TRANSSEXUAL

The *National Enquirer* reports (that means you can believe it or not) that a colony of African reed frogs solves the problem of an overabundance of females by having some of the females turn into males.

The new males develop male sex organs and fertilize other female's eggs. Apparently, however, such sex changes are one way only. No males turn female.

The reed frog, found in Africa, south of the Sahara desert, is about one-third as big as a human finger.

THE BLACK BOOK IS WHITE

The first edition of a national directory of sexuality resources called *The Black Book* was released June 15. The \$9.95 book is divided into ten sections with titles like "Tools and Toys," "Wear," "Facilities" and "Well-Being."

It's a welcome addition to the inventory of lesbian and gay directories, but note well, that despite its title, this one's for the entire community, not just the black part of it.

CHUCK D AND BILL C ON AIDS AS A CONSPIRACY

You'd think that about the only thing Chuck and Cosby have in common is five-letter names, but Chuck D of Public Enemy and Bill C of *The Cosby Show* are both down on AIDS as a man-



Bill Cosby

made conspiracy.

Chuck D recently told *Entertainment Weekly*: "I think right now we're seeing a lot of strange things happen, especially to black leaders, people of importance, you know, Muhammad Ali, the speech problem; Richard Pryor, multiple sclerosis; the Magic Johnson incident. All the way down to Bo Jackson's hip injury. Who's to say, we're next or what?...It just seems like one big government conspiracy...That's my personal opinion; I'm sorry if I've offended anybody, but fuck it."

Bill Cosby told *Showbiz Today*: "I think what happened to Magic Johnson has clearly sent a signal which will aid this world in finding a cure for something I think was started by human beings to get after certain people they didn't



Chuck D

like. That's my belief...I have no proof, but I am allowed to believe and this whole thing was human being-induced to spread [among] and kill certain people...I don't know. It's just a feeling. It's just too spooky."

Conspiracy theories are generally seen as a comfortable refuge for the paranoid. But remember, just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get you.

FAIRYLAND, JUNGLELAND, STUPIDLAND

During a dinner speech welcoming the incoming president of the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce, Ted Simonson, the Los Gatos High School principal, joked, "I understand

they are going to change the name of the Bay Bridge to the Walt Disney Bridge because it connects Fairyland to Jungleland."

The bridge connects Oakland, which has quite a few black folks, with San Francisco, which has quite a few lesbians and gay men.

During the speech, the 66-year old Simonson also referred to women joggers as "jigglers."

About 200 people in the primarily white, upper middle class community heard Simonson's Jan. 10 comments, including the mayor and police chief.

The principal has since apologized for his Mickey Mouse remarks, saying, "I think what I did was stupid. I hope it was temporary stupidity and not terminal." "Salright, Dumbo!"

NATIONAL GUARDSMAN PASSES FOR WOMAN

The heterosexual men who called the Nevada telephone line to speak with "Raven" had in mind a sultry Cherokee Irishwoman with long silky hair. But in reality they were talking to Darryl Malone, a 165 lb. National Guardsman, husband and father of four children.

Malone, who is black, was such a hit he received several love letters and a marriage proposal. One man called to speak with "Raven" 26 times in a single day.

The ex-Marine says taking the job was his wife's idea. "I had to feed my family," he said. Apparently, the blacker the Raven, the sweeter the voice.

BLK MAIL

JOE SIMMONS: PRO AND CON, PART 3

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the various letters that have appeared in your "BLK MAIL" section over recent months. It is pleasing to know that there are other black gay men who notice the overt manipulation of black men in gay pornographic videos.

It is my opinion that most interracial (gay) videos have disgusting racial overtones. It is not stupid nor is it a "lack of information" when someone notices the exploitation that exists in these videos. If one was to take a long hard look at certain interracial videos that feature black men, it would be evident that racial overtones are present. It's as if the directors of these videos are trying to make a mockery out of black masculinity or they're challeng-

ing the "theory" of black masculinity.

Personally, I've seen about three videos in which Joe Simmons "bent over" for a brother, however, the numbers aren't important. The core issue is the exploitation and emasculation of black men in gay pornographic materials and I think this is what some of your respondents were attempting to convey.

I'm going to give a perspective on how those of us who are "black oriented" view Joe Simmons and black men like him. On a macro-social level, we (black people), are still virtually powerless to a certain degree—and this is not a self-fulfilling prophecy on my part—it is a fact. We're still the objects of ridicule and the "power structure" still attempts to use us as guinea pigs for laughs and entertainment. For example, here in Houston, there

was a brother who was manipulated into asking for castration rather than serve prison time for sexual assault of a child. His lawyer was a white female and the judge was a white male whose known for making racial epitaphs about black people. Later it was found out, by the local media, that the accused was coerced and deceived by his lawyer and the judge about his options for punishment. On a micro-social level (the gay community), we are treated and manipulated pretty much in the same way, especially in pornography.

For example, there was a recent release of *Black Workout 3*, a video featuring Joe Simmons and an all-black cast. In this video, there wasn't any condom usage. These men actually had sexual intercourse with each other without protection and with Joe Simmons of all people. At the end of the video the credits rolled and there was a so-called "safe-sex expert" who oversaw the coitus between the men; I am assuming that this "expert" is non-black. Any fool in 1992 knows that there is no such thing as safe sex without a condom; it's scary enough having sex with them on. This stupidity is called "consensual exploitation." The producers have duped these idiots into thinking that there is safe sex without obtrusive prophylaxis. Again, here's that sentiment that spells "Well, they're black. Who gives a damn!"

Furthermore, black gays are looked upon as troublemakers by white gays. We are carded more often

when going to white bars and we are viewed more stereotypically in terms of our masculinity by whites and non-whites alike. We are an oppressed group within an oppressed group. I am not a separatist, however, I feel that black men ought to be with black men or black women. We have been social outcasts in this country despite our rich contributions to it.

I feel that black men, who date white men, are out of touch with their history for the most part. I feel that a black man who's true to the history of his people would not date interracially.

Many brothers who I've talked to—who date white men—seem to suffer from low self-esteem. They think that they're doing something spectacular by dating white men. One brother even had the audacity to racially categorize the men whom he liked the most. Of course, white men came first. In a debate, he couldn't even defend his position. White men seem to give these brothers 'artificial self-esteem' and consequently you get these lame brothers who'll state, "I only date white men" or "white men have money" or "black men are no good."

In essence what I'm trying to say is, people like Joe Simmons suffer from low self-esteem and they lack a true knowledge of the black experience. They allow themselves to be exploited, infatuated, manipulated and coerced by white people, particularly white men, because they lack education, self-esteem and the history of their very



"Apparently it's row vs. suede."

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existence. Let's look at this problem of "bending over" in a more educated aspect.
*Terrence McCreight, BSW
Houston, Tex.*

THE SUMMER OF OUR (DISCO)TENT, PART 2

Dear Editor:

I personally am tired of recycled rumors about Donna Summer that has not been substantiated. The old rumor regarding comments allegedly made by her is talked about as if it were just yesterday. The newest rumor that she was responsible for the song "We're Gonna Win," to be pulled from her latest album due to homophobia does not make sense to me based on these facts and/or points:

1. The record in question, "We're Gonna Win" was recorded while Donna was recording on the Geffen label (an association that did not part on the best of terms) in 1985. She began recording on Atlantic (her current label) in 1989.

2. According to a letter to

the editor (*Bravo*, June 15, 1989) from a Scott Simpson of Los Angeles, all royalties from the song were to go to AIDS research. (Warner/Geffen records did not release the song.)

3. If Donna Summer were as homophobic as some people are trying to portray her, why would Paul Jabara, a reportedly openly gay man, want to work with her; not to mention continuing a professional relationship with her if she was a homophobe?

4. Most importantly, if this song was such an issue, why was it not brought up three albums ago if it was such an issue? Why is it an issue now but not then?

5. Why didn't their association end with "Last Dance?" What are the lyric to the song? Are they really apologetic lyrics? How does an apology fit into a title called "We're Gonna Win?"

6. Why didn't their association end with "Last Dance."

I find it curious that a new rumor seems to come

out just before she's about to release a new album. As far as the old issues regarding her alleged statements, Donna Summer has gone on the record to deny statements attributed to her in interviews with the *Advocate*, *Bravo*, *Entertainment*, *BET*, etc. She also has apologized for statements that she made that may have misrepresented her actual position. She has admitted on *Entertainment Tonight* that any reference she may have made on the subject of AIDS was based upon her ignorance in thinking AIDS was no more than a social disease nearly ten years ago. (How many people knew in the straight community, much less gay/lesbian community about the disease in the correct sense?) She denies saying that AIDS was God's wrath against homosexuals. (Read her 1989 *Advocate* interview.)

As far as the witnesses at her concerts, I cannot properly judge a situation without witnessing the entire scenario of what went on and what was said before, during and after the event in question. If something was said that I may find unsettling, I ask the person right then and there to explain themselves. That way, I can find out whether that person spoke out of context, or if I heard them correctly. Those persons who were offended by what they "heard" should have confronted her right then and there about what was said. Most of us have been in situations similar to this one.

I am *not* saying Donna is blameless in this issue. It would be foolish of me to believe that. What I am saying is that I feel the Donna Summer of 1992 is not the Donna Summer of

1983. She has been made more aware of the gay/lesbian community's influence and I believe "sensitized" to be more accountable for her actions. She has reportedly donated money to AIDS research from some concerts and is willing to help. Unfortunately, she has also been turned away from performing in some AIDS benefits because of the original issues involving alleged statements attributed to her. The point is that whatever happened nearly ten years ago, it is time to move on. If she is willing to contribute to fight AIDS, we should give her the opportunity to do so.

It's time to judge her on current actions, and allow her the opportunity to show us what she is all about. It would also do us good to judge her as an artist, not an advocate. Madonna is an advocate, Donna has never been one to my knowledge; but that does not make her an enemy. If this issue is continued to drag on (like my letter) we would be doing the same thing that many in the straight community have been doing to us for decades—unwilling to reach a level of understanding because of our differences.

To carry this issue on when it may be no longer an issue (if it actually ever was) is no more than a form of mental abuse.

By the way, love your new look. Always love the magazine.

*Martin Valentine
Detroit, Mich.*

READER SAYS BLACKS SHOULD BE GRATEFUL

Dear Editor:

I found your NEW edition of *BLK* in a local bar (vol.3 #9). After reading most of it I came to the obvious conclusion that nothing has changed in this NEW type, except the print: you promote the same racial divisive and insulting nonsense as you did in your OLD type. You eagerly promote the



"Welcome to the 1992 Association of Gay Black Leader's spouses prorgam."

new version of "NEGRO" which is now "AFRICAN-AMERICAN." You SHOULD KNOW that only people BORN in Africa would have the right to call themselves African-American AFTER THEIR IMMIGRATION to America—not your BLACK or COLORED or NEGRO BROTHERS, who have the privilege to have been born and raised here! [sic] forefathers were lucky enough to have been sold by THEIR NEGRO-AFRICAN BROTHERS (to the WHITE MEN; who had the privilege to escape their savage same-age "culture" (e.g. cannibalism) and were HERE allowed the opportunity to assimilate to this WHITE WESTERN EURO-AMERICAN CULTURE and CIVILIZATION ... That was 300 years ago. Finally, 30 years ago, you were on your way to shed your savage habits, when the WHITE MAN allowed you, to help to determine your OWN fate. Unfortunately, the WHITE MAN was WRONG in his assumption, you were matured and civilized enough, to manage your own affairs. This was proven by the immediate begin [sic] of savage rioting with arson [sic] and looting by negro madmen. Many negroes and fortunately also many WHITES have LEARNED in those past years, that your beloved brothers and sisters ARE STILL NOT ABLE TO MANAGE THEIR FATE ON THEIR OWN; THAT THEY HAVE NOT MATURED ENOUGH TO BE ACCEPTED AS PARTNERS in a CIVILIZED WESTERN EURO-AMERICAN SOCIETY. MANY, many of your beloved brothers and sisters have returned to their old savage ways—now euphemistically called "ROOTS"—after the WHITES had made the mistake of accepting them into their society with EQUAL RIGHTS. You know the crime statistics which represent about 50% negroes in spite of the fact that you and your brothers represent ONLY 15% of the population! You also know about all those other statistics, where your brothers and sisters are "outstanding" in high numbers, like: unwed mothers, illiteracy, welfare-recipients, STD and drug abuse, to mention just a few of the more undesirable and anti-social trends among your brothers and sisters. Consequently, you have not really ingratulated yourselves with the civilized and cultured people of these United States. Realizing the impending BACKLASH, negroes like the illinformed (and/or malicious) Jeffries or BlacklewGod-YawehBenYaweh et al. have seen fit to promote a "NEW" myth as another excuse for your incompetence to successfully integrate yourself into the existing WORLDWIDE LEADING WESTERN EURO-AMERICAN CULTURE and CIVILIZATION: They have consequently declared your retreat to your (savage), origins, calling yourselves now African-Americans, promoting "Afro-Centrism," which is a lie in itself, like the denigration of the African-American people as falsehood—as explained above. You must NOT think, that ALL WHITES are STILL NAIVE enough to accept this primitive nonsense and will give you another chance as they once did in 1864. THOSE DAYS ARE OVER! I am afraid, the MAJORITY of the WHITES and all civilized people in this world had ENOUGH of you and your ABUSES of the GIVEN—not ever EARNED—privileges. Look at the misery in HAITI and you will understand what happens, when negroes are in charge. The same goes for ALL negro-african states and WE SHALL NOT ALLOW your "AFRICAN-AMERICAN" BROTHERS, TO CREATE THE SAME MISERY HERE. Obviously, YOU LIKE the situation in your ghettoes, for you have not been able to change this situation with all your "BLACK POWER" and your "glorious african heritage." If you just THINK of all those "superior abilities" inherited by your brothers, according to Jeffries and his "teachings" about "Afro-Centrism," THEN it is amazing to find most of this "Afro-Centrism" centralized in our PRISONS and JAILS, on our WELFARE-ROLLS, in our EMERGENCY-HOSPITALS and REHABILITATION-CENTERS! Anyway, if you want to find further PROOF for the TRUTH of my writings, just contact the ferocious ex-black-panther ED BRIDGE [sic] CLEAVER, who is now a black nussy-cat in California, not far from you! He can tell you all about his "Soul On Ice" and the "melting-down-process" he experienced during his life in negro-Africa, when he decided to use the term in the WHITE MAN'S LAND, the USA, was preferable to "freedom" among his black brothers in "Mother Africa!" That would be a nice interview for your next edition of BLK (like the one on LaBelle and her toilet-paper). Finally, a comment on the stupid arguments expressed in "Handsome, Blond Serial Killer." You are probably right about

the "lust"—for that body (and the muscles!) are the ONLY THING most of your brothers have to offer. They are just good enough for a brief moment of LUST and some manual WORK with those muscles... and I am sure I AM RIGHT ON THE MARK! Keep up the "good work" of dividing the gay community—which was the LAST bastion of racial harmony and racial integration—BUT DON'T BLAME THE GAY WHITES FOR THE RESULTING CONSEQUENCES in a COUPLE OF YEARS, after you have come to realize, what kind of fools you have been in the past. YOUR AIM SHOULD BE COMPLETE INTEGRATION AND ASSIMILATION TO THE—obviously SUPERIOR—EURO-AMERICAN CULTURE and CIVILIZATION, which ALLOWS YOU to EXIST in RELATIVE FREEDOM and COMFORT. This is PROVEN by the hordes of 3rd world people, MOSTLY negro or colored, BEGGING for admission to the United States. Ask the HAITIANS or MEXICANS or AFRICANS WHY THEY DO NOT WANT to remain in their allegedly so "highly cultured and civilized" home-countries! Can only assume that they MUST REALIZE how rotten THEIR leaders, THEIR culture and THEIR civilization really ARE and THEREFORE chose to seek a new life under the PATRONAGE of the WHITE EURO-AMERICAN CULTURE and CIVILIZATION... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In conclusion, STOP all this "AFRICAN-AMERICAN" NONSENSE and be GRATEFUL to be ALLOWED to live in our society, which offers you the CHANCE to become a fully acceptable participant in this WHITE EURO-AMERICAN CULTURE and CIVILIZATION. If you insist on your return to your ROOTS, please do so in LIBERIA—which is obliged to accept all U.S. negroes, who want to return to their "motherland" Africa. You could also try UGANDA or ETHIOPIA or HAITI—to mention just a few of the most rotten places on earth, where you will find ALL OF YOUR ROOTS artfully preserved by your negro brothers and sisters, like brutal tribal dictatorships, ritual murder, malnutrition, sickness and poverty, a lovely living standard in mudhuts without ANY CIVIL RIGHTS etc. etc. Just ONE condition: Don't ever come back—like a few of the other "root-seeking" brothers already did! We shall be very glad to get rid of you and I can assure you, you won't [sic] be missed HERE, for all of us will feel much BETTER WITHOUT a "Black-History Month" which reminds all decent and intelligent U.S. CITIZENS only at the MURDERS, the UNWED MOTHERS and the ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN in the negro-ghettos, for which we are FORCED to PAY with OUR TAXMONIES. By the way, WHAT REALLY IS "BLACK HISTORY?"—besides the items just mentioned! I am a student of history and ALL I was able to find about negro-african history may maximal fill ONE PAGE in any history-book, but we may add another page for the gradual development of the ex-negro slaves under white tutelage worldwide. WHY DOES THAT TAKE ONE MONTH—even the shortest month!—to reiterate and to celebrate?... GUESS, your brothers and sisters are SLOW READERS.

Tom F
Miami, Fla.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

BLK

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

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ON THE COVER: Justin Fashanu. Photo by Bill Short of Gay Times (London).

BLK PEOPLE

BY MICHAEL TAYLOR

SEATTLE Quiltmaker Michael Cummings is one of four artists featured in "Landscapes" at the Seders Gallery.

NEW YORK Jewelle Gomez spoke at "Crossing Identifications" Sept. 25 at the City University.

LOS ANGELES Michael Patrick's artwork was featured at the AIDS Prevention Team offices during August.

NEW YORK Lidell Jackson was a judge at the Mr. Northeast Drummer Boy Leather Contest Aug. 16.

WASHINGTON Phill Wilson was one of three new boardmembers added to the AIDS Action Council.

SAN FRANCISCO The 1992 Frameline Award was presented to Marlon Riggs.

LOS ANGELES Melanie Lomax spoke at the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of

the American Civil Liberties Union April 22.

MILWAUKEE Anthony was crowned Mr. Black Gay Wisconsin and Chanel O'Connor Miss Black Gay Wisconsin.

DALLAS Mark Harris took second place in the Men's Heavyweight division at the North American Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships.

LOS ANGELES George C. Wolfe has been named the theatre awardee for the 1992 Dorothy B. Chandler Performing Arts Awards set for Nov. 1.

INDIANAPOLIS Comic Karen Williams has been selected president of the Association of Women's Music and Culture for the 1992-1994 term.

LOS ANGELES Whoopi Goldberg was honored with the Human Rights Campaign Fund Service Award

June 26.

WASHINGTON Cary Alan Johnson has been appointed regional director for Amnesty International.

WASHINGTON Jamie Washington and William Meredith have been elected to the board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

NEW YORK Poets Carl Cook, Melvin Dixon and Harold Robinson appeared at Tower Books June 16.

LOS ANGELES Phill Wilson was named "Man of the Year" by Christopher Street West/Los Angeles.

NEW JERSEY Rutgers University Dean Cheryl Clarke, was honored with a 1992 Gay and Lesbian Achievement Award by the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition.

SAN DIEGO Openly gay Stan Lewis has been appointed to the staff of Sixth District Council representative Valerie Stallings.

NEW YORK Poets Carl Cook and Arthur T. Wilson appeared at B. Dalton June 26.

LOS ANGELES Sherry Harris was keynote speaker at the Stonewall Democratic Club's Awards Celebration. Phill Wilson was honored as the year's "Outstanding Public Official."

MINNEAPOLIS Eddie Bolden has been elected vice president of union local 977 which represents medical employees.

PHILADELPHIA Michael Biello collaborated on *Torso*, a dance featured recently in concert at the MTI Tabernacle Theatre.

LOS ANGELES Nadine Smith was elected to the executive committee for the 1993 National March on Washington.

SAN FRANCISCO Lonnie Tuck was a runner up in the Mr. Feb '93 Bare Chest Contest.

MONTREAL Cheryl Dunye a black lesbian videomaker, presented her videos *Janini* and *She Don't Fade*, at the Montreal Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

ATLANTA Jeana Jones was featured in the "Outlines" section of the *Southern Voice*.

MIAMI John Hardy, public relations director of the Associates, was featured in the "First Person" section of *TWN*.

LOS ANGELES Vaginal Creme Davis was featured at a reading sponsored by Different Light Bookstore June 21.

SAN DIEGO Journalist M Corinne Mackey was honored with the Fannie Lou Hamer Award by the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund.

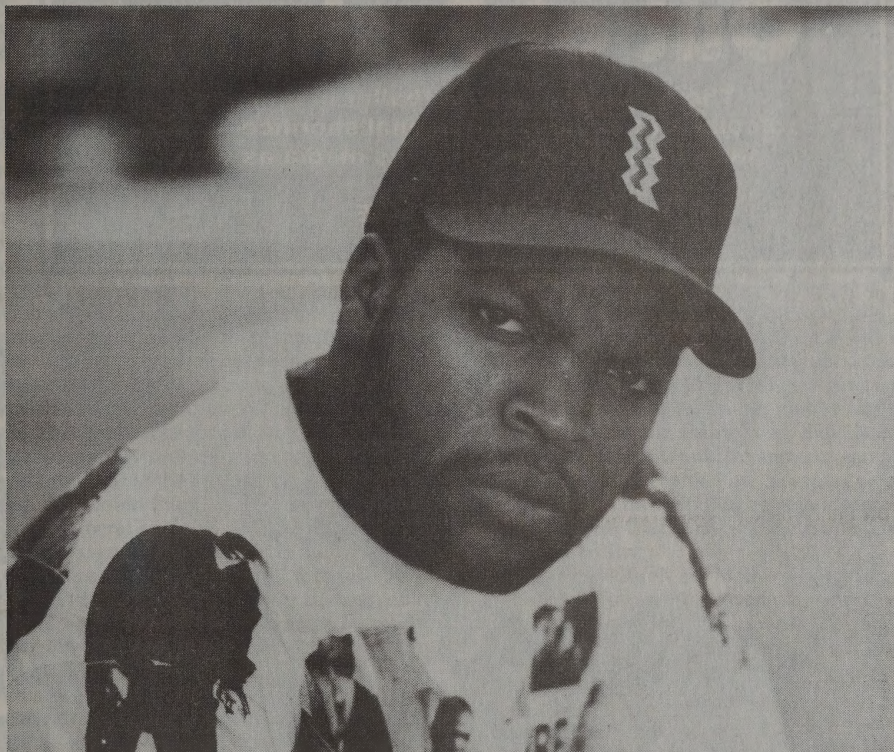
WASHINGTON Gayle Terry James takes over as the new executive director of IM-PACT-D.C.

LOS ANGELES Webster National Epps II won first prize in the African-American Heritage Magazine Fall 1991 Quarterly Poetry Contest.

NEW YORK Chas. Bennett Brack moves to Gay Men's Health Crisis Oct. 13 to head the audio-visual department with responsibility for the Ch. J television show, *Living with AIDS*.



**'WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS CALL THIS NUMBER,
BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW
HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE DOWN WITH YOU...'**



**'YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S POPPING ON AIDS.
THEY TELL YOU, DON'T USE IV DRUGS, AND DON'T
HAVE UNSAFE SEX; AND THAT'S ALL TRUE, BECAUSE
ANYBODY CAN GET IT.'**

Anybody. It doesn't respect color or sex. And if you have it and don't know it, you might even hurt the people you love the most; but testing HIV positive doesn't mean your life is over. There is no cure for AIDS – yet.

But there is help. If you think you have it, testing and treatment is available. If you don't have the HIV virus, you can find out how to help someone else who does. You can live with AIDS...if you take the time to learn how.

So take Ice Cube's advice. Get the right information. Call the Minority AIDS Project now.

213-936-4949
MINORITY AIDS PROJECT



Out of Fashanu

The first black gay footballer in England to come out endures a personal sacrifice—and is sacrificed by the black news media as well.

BY MARK HAILE



SOCCER ACE'S CONFESSIONS

JUSTIN Fashanu's 'I Am Gay' revelations have shocked Nigeria, the home country of his father Chifol Patrick Fashanu. Fashanu's name is

homosexuals in their families. Gay children are often discriminated and sometimes urged to seek psychiatric help. In Nigeria, we treat homosexuals with

"If I saw him now, I would not be responsible for his actions"

If the gay community has had but a few openly gay role models, it's certainly no secret that black lesbians and gay men have had far fewer. Sports and entertainment figures have been few and far between to acknowledge circulating rumors or publicly declare their sexuality.

Former Dodger Glenn Burke and the late singer Sylvester both were voluntarily out of the closet, yet while Burke's career in baseball came to an abrupt end, Sylvester's following kept him one of the worlds most loved singers until his death in 1988.

Likewise, Perry Watkins, during the years of struggling with the U.S. Army for reinstatement, was unable to find work because of the notoriety surrounding his court battle. Although he was ultimately successful in his celebrated Supreme Court case, it had meant years of being unemployable, living with his parents, dependent upon their support.

When Johnny Mathis came out, there were no apparent negative reaction from his presumably heterosexual fans. But neither was there any move by the supposedly politically correct crowd to include his music among those of artists who are openly gay as opposed to the many pop artists who puzzlingly are supported by a gay following without putting money back into the community.

Following the logic of the pro-"outing" folks, it would be *de rigueur*, one would think, to find the music of such talented entertainers, such as Blackberry or Kerrigan Black, in every lavender household. Yet our community, despite the claims of the pro-"outing" forces, in reality seems to penalize the majority of openly gay and lesbian public figures financially. At the very least, supporting people of color who are voluntarily out of the closet seems to be a low priority. The women's music industry—recent successes of Phranc and Tracy Chapman notwithstanding—suggest a similar experience for lesbians, although they don't expect widespread support from either gay men or the heterosexual mainstream and thus are not disappointed.

The "outing" craze that swept through the media last year was for the most part an American phenomenon, due more to the scarcity of gay media in other countries, and differing contexts of sexuality in other cultures.

Factions within the lesbian and gay community debated and fought over how and when a public figure should be "outed." Few took the time to look at what history's experience would show younger activists, many of whom weren't yet born at the time of the Stonewall Rebellion and the birth of the "coming out" process of

openly declaring yourself as lesbian or gay.

Even fewer activists examined the far reaching consequences of being "out" in communities of color as opposed to the white mainstream. The social mobility, support systems and even basic knowledge of how and how not to engage in the coming out process has yet to trickle down through to communities of color.

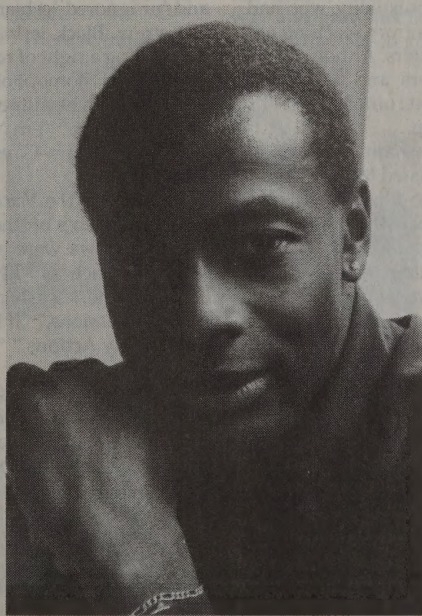
Without any rule to the game, the matter of outing has been "anything goes," like a game of tag where somebody gets the right to change the rules to fit the circumstance—or the celebrity status. Carl Lewis, the Olympic champion, has stated that not only is it not true, as repeated widely in the media, that he is gay, but that the source of the rumor was an obsessed ex-girlfriend. Whether any or all of that is true, it opens a Pandora's Box for the use of "outing" as a vendetta tool. Like it or not, even now it's still an indelible blight to the reputation of people to be falsely accused of being gay; a move which could cost them their job, their family, and even place their personal security at risk. They may still be deported from the United States. Politicians found this to work to their advantage a number of times in recent years.

Among more androgynous public figures such as Michael Jackson and Grace Jones, they themselves have usually instigated the public comments, ranging from idle speculation to interpretation of vague or coded statements. While amusing, they remain a source of curious speculation for the masses, far more intent on entertainment than malice.

In the case of Johnny Mathis, his coming out, which preceded the outing controversy by years, occurred at a time when few public figures dared do so, and younger activists were still in elementary school. Likewise, East

Coast activists have chastised openly gay figures on the West Coast who have been very active and put their bodies on the front lines and their money where their mouth was. Mathis is only one of several cases of people being "re-outed" because activists didn't do their homework. Of course, the media didn't exactly rush to record the event for posterity, either.

Great Britain is still reeling from the aftermath of their biggest and most unusual combination of coming out and outing yet, one which rocked the sports world and the black community as well as becoming a major fray in the lesbian and gay community.



Justin Fashanu was, until October, 1990, the first player in British soccer history to make £1 million a year. He was the most prominent black athlete in Great Britain, as



well as the highest paid. He had become an icon of success for the entire black community.

All that began to change in October when the *Sun*, a British tabloid that makes most American gossip sheets pale in comparison, began a series of interviews with the Nigerian-born Fashanu. Fashanu, 31, had little say in the matter of his sexuality hitting the newspapers. News accounts of his sexuality, it turns out, were about to make the front pages, despite a successful suit a few years earlier, that he had won to prevent just that from happening.

Overnight, Justin Fashanu became the best known black gay man in Britain, when, realizing he could no longer suppress news accounts of his being gay, he consented to being interviewed.

Most of the actual text of the *Sun's* interviews, which ran over several days, reveal a confession of sorts from Fashanu. Relieved to "come clean," after so many years of duplicity, the real revelation was of a man who struggled with his Christian faith and his homosexuality, who had the walls of his closet preventing him from reaching out to his lesbian and gay brothers and sisters. Although Fashanu's ex-lovers included footballers and a married Conservative MP, it was the closet, that ruined Fashanu's every attempt of having a relationship.

The revelation initially provided Fashanu with a great deal of relief, even though the *Sun* twisted his words and the context of his meaning. They also filled the articles with incredible lies about lurid sex—the kind their readers expect of gay men—when Justin's actual story presented a portrait of a hard-working man trying to reconcile his homosexuality with the very straight macho world he lived in. The *Sun* ignored, too, the trials and tribulations of assimilation in England for blacks that Justin struggled with daily.

"Recently I went to San Francisco," Fashanu said in the opening interview. I liked it because gays are accepted as proper citizens—as they should be anywhere in the world.

"The greatest thing in about getting all this off my chest now is that I won't have to live the lie any longer.

"I can be honest and say, I'm gay—now does that make me a better or worse person?"

Unfortunately, the relief was short lived for Fashanu. The largest black newspaper in Britain, the *Voice* (circulation 45,000) began a homophobic campaign the very day

the first installment of Fashanu's interview hit the streets. Actually, as the organization Black Lesbian and Gay Action Against Homophobia recalled, since it began publishing in the early '80s, "The *Voice* (which describes itself as 'Britain's best black newspaper') has frequently printed hostile and offensive items about lesbians and gay men. These have ranged from one-line insults to full pages of rabid homophobia. (We have heard of some positive articles printed before our campaign began, but have not been able to locate them.) Black lesbian and gay groups and individuals have frequently protested but received little or no response to letters, phone calls, and even personal visits to the paper's offices.

"This frustrating situation continued until the 30th October '90 issue of the *Voice*, which devoted four full pages (including the front page) and the editorial to extremely negative coverage of black footballer Justin Fashanu's coming out as gay, and the reaction of his brothers. In addition, there were eight other items that insulted and/or ignored lesbians and gays. This edition was the last straw. Black lesbians and gays mounted a protest demanding a right of reply and a boycott was triggered."

A list of homophobic articles printed in the *Voice* included such headlines as, "Woman Jailed Over Lesbian Love Shooting," "I'm No Lesbo," "Gays in the House of God" and "Why Gays and Lesbians Aren't Fit to Be Parents."

Included in the *Voice* tirade was a series of articles by Justin Fashanu's brother, John, who is also a footballer. The interviews were accompanied by giant screaming headlines such as "My Gay Brother Has Shamed the Family Name," "Fashanu Family Shocked By Justin's Gay Love Confessions," "If I Saw Him I Could Not Be Responsible for My Actions," "John Fashanu: My Gay Brother Is an Outcast."

Interviewing the Fashanu family, *Voice* reporter Dotun Adebayo was told by John Fashanu, "If I saw him now I couldn't be responsible for my actions. I have no wish to contact Justin whatsoever. He's a stranger, an utter stranger. The real Justin Fashanu could walk into my office at any time, but this person's not the same person I grew up with.

"His confession has put me in a compromising position. How can I be sitting on the board of the National Curriculum with politicians such as Ian McGregor and Angela Rumbold, deciding on the future of school kids,



when my brother does this to me?"

The issue of the *Voice* that was the breaking point for Britain's lesbians and gay men included articles such as one by Marcia Dixon, the religious columnist, whose diatribe had the headline, "Why Justin's Story Should Sadden Us All" where she railed about Fashanu's failing as a Christian.

"Not every one who says they are following Christ are doing what they claim," Dixon said. "As Christians we should be ashamed of Justin's story and feel it reflects badly on the church. We should just be saddened that this one individual did not give himself over to Christ."

The worst of the articles had to be Tony Sewell's "Live and Kicking" column (who calls himself "the columnist who doesn't give a xxxx what people think").

Under the heading of, "When The World Comes Out the World Must Know," Sewell asked, "Why do gays make so much noise when they decide to come out? Last week butch soccer ace Justin Fashanu confessed, 'I'm gay and I want everyone to know it.' But why should we? We heterosexuals are sick and tired of tortured queens playing hide and seek around their closets."

"There's an old saying that goes: 'There're those that do it and those that talk about it. Homosexuals are the greatest 'queer bashers' around. No other group of people are so preoccupied with making their own sexuality look dirty. Why do they need to come out in the first place—what was wrong with the closet? Too many skeletons perhaps! Gays talk about 'coming out' as if it's a religious experience like getting baptised."

"Apart from money, what drives a man to confess his bedroom secrets to an anti-gay paper like *The Sun*? But watch out! If the world doesn't accept him—like a spoilt child that won't get his way—he'll start shouting 'homophobia'!

"Justin Fashanu's need for Christianity is interesting. He says: 'I know that homosexuality is not right—not in the teaching of the Bible anyway. I struggled within

and still do.' The gay's passion to tell the world is no different from the Christian's desire to seek forgiveness. They both feel guilty and both need approval."

"When heterosexuals decided to 'come out' during the so called permissive '60s, there was so much ranting about free love and open sex. Today, post-AIDS, everyone is silently climbing back into their closets with a single partner—homosexuals would be well advised to do the same."

In the same issue, it would be noted that Sewell called Carl Lewis a "self-righteous 'bitch,' who, if he could, would rename himself something humble, like Jesus Christ."

Commenting on Carl Lewis's statements about Florence Griffith and steroids, Sewell spat, "Mr. Lewis would be better off acting in *Dynasty*—making plots against lovers who've left him. His obsession with Flo-Jo may be the reason why he now dons a pony-tail. Will he go all the way and grow his fingernails, too? What hurts him the most is that Flo-Jo got away with it. He can't say, 'I told you so!'"

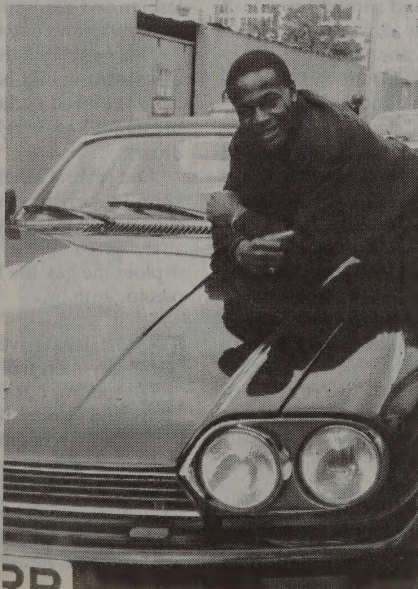
In a separate article, "Nigerians Shocked Over Soccer Ace's Confessions," the *Voice* stated Justin Fashanu's coming out had "amazed" people.

"Justin Fashanu's 'I Am Gay' revelations have shocked Nigeria, the home country of his father, Chief Patrick Fashanu. In Nigeria, the Fashanu name is revered, but Justin's confession is likely to tarnish it."

"Nigerians are amazed at Fashanu's admission, because amongst the country's 100 million citizens, homosexuality is seen as a sinful crime. Until recently it was punishable by death."

"Nigerians are unwilling to accept homosexuals in their families. Gay children are often disowned, and sometimes urged to seek psychiatric help."

"In Nigeria, we treat homosex-





uals with utter contempt,' explained a spokesperson for the Nigerian High Commission in London. 'Homosexuality is still illegal in Nigeria. I can't think of a case where a homo was sentenced, but I can assure you that the Nigerian people as a whole do not like them.' "

The editorial comment from the *Voice* spelled out their antigay sentiments: "Justin Fashanu, Britain's first £1 million black football star, showed thousands of youngsters that black sports people could make it to the very top despite all the obstacles put in their way.

"But now the very person that gave the community so much hope has let his family and the community down with his tawdry revelations in a daily tabloid newspaper.

"His sexuality is his own business, but when such disclosures are portrayed in such a fashion, it is an affront to the black community.

"Positive images of black people are still rare in the British media. But, through sport, black individuals have carved out positions of respectability and excellence that have been the envy of the international sporting world.

"That's why Justin Fashanu's action is so damaging. He owed it to his family and the black community not to sell his soul to the highest bidder, and should have dealt with the whole episode in a sensible and mature way.

"Telling the world you're gay is one thing, but claiming that your conscience and faith in God led to the publication of such revelations is pathetic and unforgivable."

Protests and denouncements from the lesbian and gay community, especially from black lesbians and gay men, finally resulted in a concession from the *Voice* publisher Val McCalla that the articles could "in some respects be interpreted as homophobic."

Black gay activist Ted Brown noted that McCalla's comment was far from a full fledged apology; the Fashanu affair was only the most extreme example of a long history of homophobic coverage.

Steve Pope, a *Voice* editor, later added, "we're not antigay, but I will admit that the Fashanu story could have been interpreted in that way and was overly sensationalist. With hindsight, we've underestimated the number of gay people within the gay community.

Positive letters did appear about homosexuality as did an article "Glad To Be Gay" which included openly gay black men Dennis Carney, Alex Owodade and South Afri-

can activist Simon Nkoli.

The front page apology that subsequently appeared said, "The *Voice* has received a number of complaints from the gay community, who have suggested that our coverage of the recent Justin Fashanu story was irresponsible and gave the impression that the *Voice* is antigay. It goes without saying that the *Voice* is opposed to all forms of prejudice against any group in society because of their race, sex, religion or sexual orientation. We have examined our treatment of the story in question and we accept that in some respects it could be interpreted as homophobic. This was not our intention and we therefore regret any offense that may have been caused."

Despite the apology, it appeared that the *Voice* had no intention of communicating with the organized black gay community. This resulted in a nine-month boycott of the *Voice*, that extended to the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) who withdrew their advertising.

Finally, in June, 1991, the *Voice* relented and developed an "editorial policy and code of practice" that would presumably assure non-judgmental coverage of lesbians and gay men.

A compromise was reached on the regular inclusion of lesbian and gay issues in the *Voice*, along with protections for lesbian and gay employees of the paper.

"We regret that the campaign was necessary in the first place, and would have preferred that these agreements were achieved earlier," stated black gay and lesbian representatives Dirg Aaab-Richards and Ted Walker-Brown.

And Justin Fashanu? Nine months after the controversy broke, he had been unreachable for months. After visiting North America and Europe, he had apparently found a new place to live, somewhere, maybe, where he could explore the gay life he had watched from his closet door passing him by.

The debate over the *Voice's* coverage of lesbians and gay men will probably ensure that young people coming out of the closet will get the affirmation and information they need. At least for the present, the *Voice* has recognized that black lesbians and gay men exist, in Africa as well as England; that they pay taxes, live in the same neighborhoods, and suffer the same consequences as their heterosexual black counterparts for living in England, if not more so.

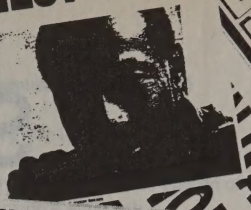
The central figure in the mess, whose former manager

'THE TOUGHEST GAY BROTHER OF MY LIFE' Justin Fashanu speaks out JOHN FASHANU BLASTS HIS BROTHER'S PUBLIC 'COMING OUT'

DEBATE
 Was Fashanu right or wrong?
 Homosexuality acceptable?
 Shocking Coverage
 Offensive driver!

GAY BROTHER OF MY LIFE
 Justin Fashanu speaks out

JOHN FASHANU BLASTS HIS BROTHER'S PUBLIC 'COMING OUT'



said would never play football in England again, thus became both hero and victim at the same time, and was now forgotten. No one knew if Justin himself had found his personal reconciliation that he began with his articles in the *Sun*.

Finally, Justin emerged from his isolation to speak with the *Gay Times* of England, revealing how unprepared he had been for the firestorm that had surrounded his coming out.

It seemed that everyone with access to a printing press in England had *something* to say about Justin's coming out process, but few had been there to offer him unequivocal support. It had, in fact, been the suicide of a young friend in Canada that had helped him decide to live openly.

"That's when I thought that everybody, especially those with a high profile, should accept the responsibility of being truthful," said Fashanu. If more people said 'Now listen, homosexuality is everywhere,' then we'd be saving so many lives—not just their physical lives but their ability to express themselves and be creative. Since I came out it's as if another side of me has been set free, a new creative side."

Ironically, by going to the *Sun*, Fashanu had hoped to keep them from making up the kind of stories that they ended up doing anyway. He also had hoped to reach both those who had followed his career and the young gay men in the closet through the mass media with his message.

Fashanu spent a successful 1991 season in Canada, had a brief trial with Newcastle United, and is currently with Torquay United. He has been appointed assistant manager of Torquay, making him the first black man in Britain to enter football management. He was the club's top scorer last season despite joining the team in mid-season.

Both the issues of outing and homophobia in the media will still be around, of course, for a long time to come. America's press

serving communities of color have barely noted the controversy, although the Clarence Thomas nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court certainly has brought a number of his political skeletons out of his thankfully heterosexual closet. In a very close parallel to how the media handles homosexuality, the Thomas affair has certainly shown how race and sexuality influence how the press will open closet doors.

Most people would probably, as with Justin Fashanu, want to do their coming out differently on the far side of the experience. Certainly, Fashanu's trial by fire would give young people cause to think before they reveal their (or someone else's) sexuality to someone. The coming out process is still an individual one, and ongoing at that. The first year publicly out of the closet saw Fashanu himself finally interviewed in the *Voice*, in a much more sympathetic manner than would have happened before.

Thirty black lesbians and gay men also finished the full page article that ran in the *Voice*, tackling homophobic myths and promoting positive images for black lesbians and gay men.

"Under the new editorship of Winsome-Grace Cornish, the paper has shown considerable improvement in its editorial policy toward lesbians and gays," reported the Black Lesbians and Gays Against Media Homophobia. Britain's largest black-owned business, the *Voice* now has a policy supporting its lesbian and gay employees as well, something most black American newspapers do not yet have in place.

After two years, Fashanu is only now beginning—and willing—to take advantage of his status as a gay celebrity. He has become a trustee of the Terrence Higgins Trust and is often seen in public with his assistant, Dominic. After touching so many lives, resulting in a better situation for lesbians and gay men beyond merely the black British press on lesbian and gay concerns, he is now able to pursue his new life as a free and happy, openly gay man.



Singer/songwriters Raymond Jones and Norma Jean Wright, who comprise the group State of Art, have plenty of reasons to celebrate. In addition to putting out a new album of their own "world music" compositions, the release of *Community* marks the first album on filmmaker Spike Lee's new record label, 40 Acres and a Mule Musicworks.

Jones and Wright both were original members of the music group Chic, which caused quite a stir in the late '70s and early '80s in the dance music world. *Community* has a definite '90s style, seamlessly blending the influences of hip hop, dance and jazz together with beautiful ballads. The combination works magic: Jones is an accomplished musician and songwriter, while Wright's sharp, sultry vocals show an amazing amount of strength and resonance.

STATE OF ART

*Sophisticated Duo's First Release From Spike Lee's
New Record Label*

by DJ MARIUS



Listening to your music, you get the feeling that State of Art has lots of different influences.

Raymond: As a new group, we tried to set a path you can follow in the future. We wanted to say that we are artists that are aware of different influences.

Are there specific musical influences you both had growing up, or people that you listen to now?

Raymond: I can tell you Norma's influences (*laughs*). Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin, any performer who sings from the heart. She's also really into Shirley Horn [the Washington, D.C.-based jazz singer] recently.

Norma: Well, Ray, being the well-rounded world traveler that he is (*laughs*), he listens to everything: Brazilian, Latin, hip hop, jazz, funk... everything! Tops on his list would probably be Sabrina Johnston, Duke Ellington and Joe Henderson (who plays tenor sax on the track "Police State").

How did you hook up with Spike Lee?

Raymond: Well, we tried to hold him at gunpoint, but that didn't work (*laughs*)!

Norma: Ray worked on the soundtracks of three of Spike's films, so he was very familiar with Ray's work. In early '90, we had actually done a demo for another record label, PolyGram. Spike saw the video we did for the single, and really liked the visual image. That's when he knew it would work.

How did you decide on the album's title, *Community*?

Raymond: I begin the liner notes of the album with the quote "Wherever go my people, there is my community." For us, this has real meaning. Wherever we travel in the world, we find people of African descent. And there is our community.

Is there a major contrast in the



music you're doing now, compared with what Chic was about?

Norma: Chic also had global appeal. However, our music has a different focus now. People are still dancing, but also thinking about how they're gonna pay their rent! Back in the days of Chic there never would have been a song like "Gypsy Woman (She's Homeless)." Homelessness wasn't an issue then, especially not in the club environment. Some of our music is definitely issue-oriented.

Does dealing with "the issues" have a wide appeal to a young audience?

Norma: I think so. Our music deals with a lot of the same issues that hip hop deals with.

Raymond: I told Spike that there's a wide audience that appreciates the message in our music. We had to do the record whether or not it was going to be "flavor of the month."

Will the music industry find your music hard to categorize?

Norma: I tell people it's world music. I'm really not into categories, but R&B is our base.

Raymond: I tell people it's R&B, and that's because we wanted it to be accessible to black people. Some performers are afraid of relating to a black audience; we're not. Hip hop music has hopefully put that fear to rest.

Does it enhance your working relationship to live on opposite coasts [Norma lives in Harlem,

Raymond in Los Angeles]?

Norma: It gives us an advantage. We draw from our environment. It makes our work multi-dimensional instead of a one-dimensional approach.

Raymond: With the telephone, faxes or whatever, we can always get together on ideas. After all, this is the information age!

Do you see the experience you talk about in "Police State" happening more often?

Norma: Yes! The Rodney King incident was only a manifestation of the problem. The racist mindset is still in effect. It's ignorance—the only way it can change is through education.

Raymond: Unfortunately, yes. The imprint has been there so long, it will be a long time before people forget this type of event. The bottom line is white supremacy ain't going nowhere!

Will world events continue to influence and be reflected in your music?

Norma: Not in a calculated way. We gave, and will continue to give, our sensitivity to the situation.

Raymond: We don't necessarily want our music to be a current events report, but the music will be influenced by it. We do these things because of what goes on in the world around us.

Is Spike set to direct any of your videos?

Raymond: As a matter of fact, he called yesterday about directing the next video!

What feeling do you think people will be left with after listening to the album?

Raymond: One of hope.

Norma: And to be encouraged in whatever endeavor they choose to pursue.



STONEWALL
COMES TO

SOUTH CENTRAL

L. LLOYD JORDAN

Perhaps nothing sums up so succinctly how unlike are the worlds inhabited by blacks and whites of Los Angeles than the fact that whites have invariably referred to the violence which followed the Rodney King police verdicts as “the riot,” while blacks use almost any other term—rebellion, revolt, insurrection, civil disturbance, you name it. “Riot” suggests spontaneous combustion, haphazard turbulence; descriptions which fit only a superficial analysis of the conflagration. No, this was a time bomb ignited by hot sparks and volatile fuel left too long in negligent juxtaposition. Once the fuse was lit, explosion became inevitable. Call it what you will, but please, don’t say it was unpredictable.

Certainly the looters and lawbreakers shown repeatedly on television were part of no solemn protest nor of any planned revolution. But neither were they desperados who rode into town to rape and pillage. No, they gravitated to the streets in pain, to howl their outrage and to lick each others’ wounds of the spirit. Horns honked, fists flailed, unholstered guns were discharged into

the darkening sky. Gradually, milling about in the twilight of April 29, frustrated by their own impotence, menacing packs of dark young men formed. Crowds goaded angry words into destructive deeds. A need to vent became the urge to pounce. Violence was let loose upon the city of Angels as lava and ash spew forth from the mouth of an enraged volcano.

The initial impetus, to protest deeply felt wrong,

could find no adequate outlet in the streets. The prevalent sense of outrage called for no peace march, no we-shall-overcome turning of the other cheek. Had the verdicts been the expected mix of convictions and acquittals, had the mostly white jury shown any propensity to punish King's videotaped floggers, a soon-to-be-forgotten rally rather than a "riot" would probably have ensued. Instead the jury hurled down a gauntlet.

The complete vindication of King's assailants was felt as a profound expression of contempt for the pain black people in this country know, pain which, for once, all the world had witnessed. Even the President hastened onto worldwide television to declare the verdicts incomprehensible.

Thus the need to take to the streets was far stronger than anyone could have anticipated. Gradually, the many muttering voices became one, a guttural growl, "Because they use the rules to abuse us, the rules must be broken!" Rules, windows and locks.

With property declared fair game for expressions of outrage, the moocher's mentality, ever present in the hustle of the ghetto, quickly emerged: "I can trash this stuff—or I can take it." The right to break in was granted by the Simi Valley jurors, by the perception that the forces of order had been licensed to persecute rather than to defend. But the right to steal was granted by the eat-or-be-eaten law of the urban jungle, a law everyone there acknowledges, but which is normally taken advantage of only by predators.

Perhaps the gravest evil of this upheaval was the complicity between Anglo racism and black degradation, which seduced so many into committing their first but probably not their last crimes. Selfishness unconstrained by any sense of responsibility will steal anything at hand, will ignite vicious fires and assault the innocent. And did. Riot is too casual, too dismissive a term to encompass the depth of alienation which gives rise to so thorough a breakdown in human civility.

Those who believe that the uprising could have been quelled quickly by a massive show of police or military force are probably wrong. Because the level of anger was so overwhelming, and was specifically focused on police, confrontation

between white officers and blacks would almost certainly have enflamed and escalated the outbreak.

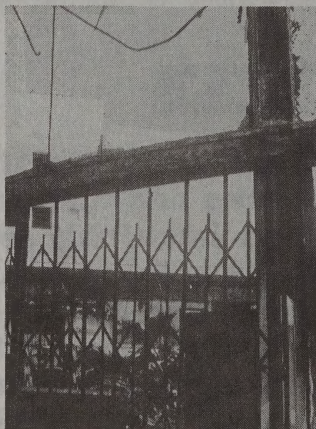
As satisfying as it would have been for many to see the televised cavalry ride in and administer street justice to muggers and looters, the mayhem could well have become a massacre. An overwhelming use of police force would almost certainly have led to huge casualties. Young black and brown inner-city males (supposedly there are nearly 100,000 gangbangers in Los Angeles County, not to mention un-reconstructed '60s militants) would be bound to initiate guerrilla street action. Open race war would have begun in urban America.

Whether deliberate or negligent, the withdrawal of police from the inner city was the best anti-riot stratagem which could have been employed.

Nonetheless, growing Anglo exasperation with African-Americans increases the likelihood that future black revolts will be met with massive violent reprisal. That prospect must become a strategic consideration for the black community.

Since Marcus Garvey there have been Afrocentrists convinced race war is inevitable, those who are impatient for it and those who believe it is upon us. But none since Jim Jones have ever advocated action which could directly result in black genocide.

Given such a prospect, if the new federal trials of Rodney King's attackers also fail to mete out justice, what can African-America do to make Anglo America aware that it is driving black people to desperation? Is gay experience useful or relevant here? What is the black gay perspective?



A few black gay institutions were, in fact, rattled by the violence. Minority AIDS Project stands but a hundred yards from now gutted buildings. Arsonists failed in their attempt to break into the Catch One Disco thanks to the vigilance of owner Jewel Thaïs-Williams who stood guard with a pistol.

Duane Bremond, openly gay aide to Rep. Maxine Waters, had time to salvage only his personal computer before the congressional field office was looted then burned. Ditto Sandra Domingue, aide to

black Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas and co-chair of the Gay/Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force, who had no place either to work or shop for weeks. Leimert Park, L.A.'s most popular after dark black gay cruising ground became a gathering place for the restless, including gangbangers who would soon loot neighboring stores.

Although the media cited extensive damage to Korean-American enterprises as proof that black hate crimes were directed at Asians, the Watts Labor Community Action Committee and the Black Muslim Community Service Center were also torched. Black Muslims stood at parade rest along the street, fists raised, heads bowed in mournful indignation. One can but ponder uneasily what might have happened to a building in South Central if, as activists have demanded in the past, their marquees had openly displayed the words "gay," "lesbian" or "AIDS."

Still, except for Oakwood, a black but gentrifying neighborhood of Venice, the damage was confined almost exclusively to commercial areas. And it was over in 36 hours. Long enough for the LAPD and its arrogant chief to go AWOL and let South Central burn, but brief enough for federal troops to arrive just in time to impose martial law on an already prostrate city.

The violence was not, for the most part, targeted, nor did it leave behind any organized corps of insurrectionists strategically primed to advance the revolution to the next phase. That's all too complicated. An outrage was publicly committed on a brother, Simi Valley white folks let the guilty go, and a response from black and brown folks, driven but not directed by history. Period.

Oh, but what history. Black history largely unheeded by white America has offered plenty of warnings. When in 1959 bisexual playwright Lorraine Hansberry dramatized the frustrations of a black inner city family, inspired by a line from gay poet Langston Hughes, "What happens to a dream deferred?/Does it dry up/Like a raisin in the sun?/Or does it explode?" America praised the play but ignored the warning. When America's greatest post-World War II novelist,

James Baldwin, fled for France bitterly warning America of *The Fire Next Time*, stateside critics complained that his voice had grown shrill, his tale stale.

When Martin Luther King, Jr. led marches through the South in peaceful civil disobedience, Negroes understood what Caucasians failed to notice: Northerners, not Southerners, were moved by the marchers' moral courage and for the second time in history sent federal troops to halt *de jure* desegregation in the South, while preserving *de facto* segregation where they lived.

Non-violent protest may elicit moral sympathy but unless it moves an outside authority to intervene against oppression, it is usually ignored or squashed by local oppressors—a fact discovered by Gandhi in India and by Chinese students in Tianamen Square.

When the long hot summers of the '60s dyed colored people black, the frightened Great Society declared war on poverty, then capitulated as soon as the bill arrived. Officially appointed post-riot analysts warned America not to become a country of "two nations, one black, one white, separate and unequal." But today the Kerner and McCone Commissions gather dust, serving no more use than to quietly refute the neo-conservative libel that all would have been well had blacks not been over-coddled by '60s liberals.



In Los Angeles the warnings have been well-documented in the age of videotape. In the early '80s a local television news station first filmed police stopping a black man for no apparent reason other than that he was driving through Beverly Hills at night.

Police-related tragedies increased over the years; the chokehold was banned when LAPD Chief Daryl Gates admitted that the only explanation he could find for why blacks but not whites were dying from its use was, "Maybe they don't respond like normal people." Eula Love was riddled with police bullets in front of her children.

Ex-cop Don Jackson videotaped black boys being harassed by cops in Westwood. Later, he was filmed by an undercover news crew being shoved

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head first through a store window by a policeman. Although the officer lied in the police report of the incident, he was acquitted of misconduct.

Fifteen-year-old Latasha Harlins was shot in the back of the head by a Korean American grocer who had accused her of stealing a bottle of orange juice. The store's videotape got Soon Ja Du convicted, but when Judge Karlin refused to give her the usual prison sentence for voluntary manslaughter. L.A. County voters re-elected the judge to the bench over the black community's furious protests. Finally, there were the 51 videotaped blows rained down on Rodney King and the Simi Valley acquittal of the rainmakers.

To African-Americans, these add up to a pattern of *documented* police brutality which reflect the far more numerous unpublicized tales of abuse nearly every black Angeleno can recount. But to whites, Rodney King's beating and the verdict on his police assailants was an unfortunate *aberration*.

If you were white, you wondered how the Simi Valley jury could have acquitted those four cops. If you were black, you knew how.

So blacks fled for safety, realizing that if even the most law-abiding among them felt rage, the least restrained would lunge ferociously at the city's jugular. Something had to happen to hinder business as usual, to restrain the nation's video hand from switching off black pain with remote control casualness.

Middle-class blacks feared the consequences of lawlessness, but the dispossessed feared nothing. Why should they? They took to the streets to condemn racial hypocrisy, to defy authoritarian contempt, to draw the world's attention to their vulnerability and to hustle some creature comforts.

During those first 36 hours, sexuality seemed frankly irrelevant. Color was all. It was the degree rather than the nature of the response which distinguished South Los Angeles from West Hollywood when both communities felt *dissed* by the power of the state. The weeks of largely non-violent protest organized by the gay and lesbian community throughout California following veto of the gay rights bill, AB101, by Gov.

Pete Wilson last autumn also reflected disgust with flagrant injustice.

True, circumstances were different: lesbians and gay men were marching to obtain rights they never had, whereas blacks were seeking to obtain rights long guaranteed but habitually disrespected. The implications for blacks of letting the Rodney King defendants off scott free seemed painfully tangible, whereas the veto of AB101's future benefits was, by comparison, a symbolic offense of unsure impact.

Most fundamentally, an inescapable fact of existence, color, elicited racism among police, whereas lesbians and gay men could elude the abuse of homophobia, albeit at the price of their integrity. Normally, accepting that there is a hierarchy of oppression among discriminated against groups is divisive. But during crisis, privilege inevitably divides allies, separating the vulnerable from the less vulnerable in a scramble for survival, *sauve qui peut*.

Still, on the night of the verdicts as cars fled north and west from South Central, two headed south and east from West Hollywood full of white lesbians and gay men. Gay community dean Morris Kight, Miki Jackson of Stonewall Democratic Club, Torie Osborn, David Smith and Bernie Hertz of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, Chris Fowler of GLAAD, Steve Taravella of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and

lesbian reporter Karen Ocamb tried to reach First A.M.E. Church, where black community members gathered for a rally in response to the verdicts. Kight and Jackson made it. But the others were sternly warned to turn about face and flee—anger was already annealing into a fury that would shortly go blind, that would shortly suck Reginald Denny out of his truck and into a maelstrom of unleashed, violent malice.

It is no small thing that these stray queers remembered their pain, felt into that of the black community and headed into the eye of the storm to offer succor and support.

Mayor Tom Bradley was booed that night at First A.M.E. for offering too little too late to the community which launched his career. Mere words of solidarity and protest seemed ridiculous in the



face of such contemptuous verdicts. Telling black folk to pray, to vote, to write letters completely mismeasured the enormity of the offense. Only action could express the bitterness. Only obstruction of an oppressive order's confidence in its power of control could vent such anguish.

Those who judge riot and rioters must understand this: If on that night there need not have been violence, there had to be *violation* of some kind. And at some level it had to threaten the lifestyles and disrupt the lives of those perceived as responsible, if only by their indifference, for infliction of the injury.

AB101 is not Rodney King. But its lessons in civil unrest can be relevant. During the AB101 marches, activists blocked streets and freeway ramps, forcing L.A.'s drivers to experience the full measure of gay anger without, however, inflicting or inviting violence.

Within days of the unrest a peaceful, multi-ethnic rally was organized and staged in Simi Valley, conceived by Mayor Bradley's AIDS coordinator, Phill Wilson, and executed by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Although politicians and mainstream civil rights groups avoided this "fringe" contingent, black lesbians and gays drew progressive activists and major media attention by leading the only non-violent protest of the verdicts to occur.

Civil disobedience and peaceful obstructiveness can shatter public complacency without shattering windows or heads. Had a series of such marches been planned, 45 people might now be alive and victims of racism might not have also become victims of carnage in their own communities. Next time it must be remembered, both peace and protest are possible.

If in re-building Los Angeles, there is no re-structuring of how goods, services and civility are dispensed to African- and Latino-Americans, maybe everyone ought to go out and buy an Uzi or two, because the fire next time is likely to be an inferno. Those appalled at blacks destroying businesses in their own communities misunderstand how seldom businesses located in black neighborhoods are

black-owned or involved in the community.

The black purchasing dollar barely turns over in black hands at all before disappearing to bring profit to non-black entrepreneurs. Partially because there are too few dollars brought in by wage earners and partially because blacks cannot find or do not seek quality products in their own neighborhoods, black earnings are underused to stimulate profit, employment and savings in their neighborhoods.

Black businesses disappear almost before they get going, starved out of existence by under-capitalization, disinterest by traditional banking institutions, inexperience and lack of consumer traffic. Perhaps the single most promising development to emerge from the uprising is the focus on the need to nurture community-based entrepreneurialism.



Finally, it needs to be recognized that although order is essential to progress, it is a means to that end and not an end in itself. It is a relative, not an absolute, good. Order imposed by fear is inherently unstable, whereas order founded in justice is the definition of a republic.

Needed is a viable social contract between African- and Anglo-Americans. There is ample grounds to believe that a *modus vivendi* beneficial to both races and

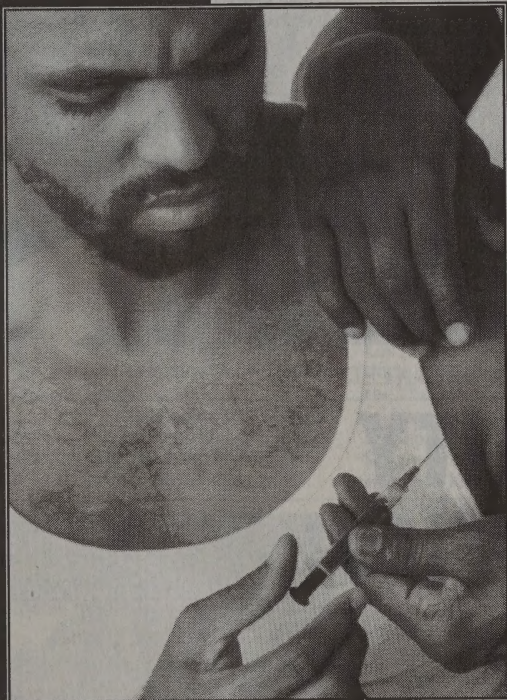
cultures can be found.

Until then, when African-Americans march through the streets chanting, "No justice, no peace," Anglo America should recognize their own history repeating itself. The principle involved is the same as was asserted when American colonists rebelled against British tyranny.

Those colonists began by making repeated complaints about the intolerable abusiveness of men come from outside their communities to enforce the law. Their slogan was treasonable and threatening, "No taxation without representation." When they finally took action against the powers that be, they acted illegally, destructively, clandestinely, violently and they provoked retaliation. But to this day no one calls it a riot. They call it the Boston Tea Party.

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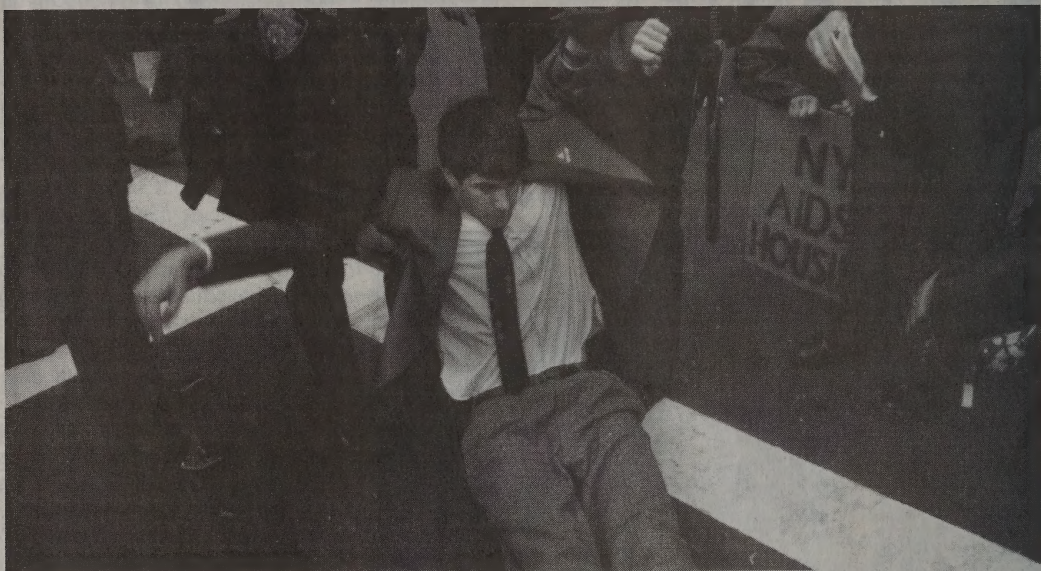
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THEATER

Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica, Calif. hosted programs by Pomo Afro Homos and the United Lesbians of African Heritage in August. PAH presented a fresh crop of *Dark Fruit*, while ULOAH created a smorgasbord of comedy, music and performance.

Dark Fruit, which has also been seen recently in San Francisco, is a series of vignettes about the black gay experience, similar in style to *Fierce Love*, its predecessor.

PAH consists of Djola Bernard Branner, Eric Gupton and Brian Freeman.

The Rainbow Repertory Theatre, a lesbian and gay men of color performance organization founded in 1987, has moved to a new site. The Center of the

Rainbow, as the new space is called, is located at 147 W. 25th St., Manhattan.

Earlier this year the RRT mounted *Pigeons on a Couch* by Melanie Nelson. Deirdre Boddie-Henderson and Nicole Hill played former lovers and current roommates who might just be the last to know they're still lovers.

Most recently, *Two Heads* written by Philip Blackwell and directed by Reginald T. Jackson appeared at the Center of the Rainbow.

Bay area performance artist Rhodessa Jones brought her acclaimed solo work, *Big Butt Girls, Hard Headed Women*, to the Sushi Performance Gallery in San Diego.

Jones's piece on women in real life situations in the city and county jails are true to life, based on

Jones's work in actual jail facilities in the Bay Area.

Direction and music was provided by Idris Ackamoor, who with Jones also act as the artistic directors of Cultural Odyssey.

Two Eric Stephen Booth plays, the BRIO-award winning *Steeplechase* and *Deja Vu*, a new one-act, play the Total Theater Lab Oct. 2-25. Both are directed by Michael Thomas-Newton. TTL is located at 626-22 Broadway in Manhattan.

Stanley Bennett Clay's romantic comedy, *Lovers*, entertained Los Angeles audiences during July and August at the Theater of Arts Theater.

Starring Michelle Davison, Brian Edney, Stacey Johnson, William Hubbard Knight, Lawrence Lowe and Gregory Eugene Travis, *Lovers* was the bitter-sweet-tale-with-a-twist of black Hollywood pros and their significant others caught up in the hopeless and often hilarious struggle to maintain boundaries that separate career, friendship and romance.

Clay is the author-director-producer of the critically acclaimed *Ritual* and the producer of last season's award-winning *Willie & Esther*.

Black playwright Cheryl West has won over Washington audiences once again, as her new effort, *Jar the Floor*, recently played to standing room only crowds at the Arena

Stage.

The play gives a glimpse of the lives of four generations of black women who gather to celebrate the 90th birthday of the matriarch. Each woman has managed to put her own baggage on her daughter, and they all struggle to understand each other as well as themselves.

One of the funniest moment of the play comes as the family questions the sexuality of its youngest member who arrives home with a white girl whom she describes as a "close friend."

Last year, West came on the scene with the award-winning play *Before It Hits Home*, which told the story of a young, attractive, and masculine black man who must finally go home with the news that he has AIDS.

Paul Boakye's *Boy with Beer* is about Karl and Donovan, two black gay men who wrestle with contrasting desires and fears after a casual meeting. Mounted at the Man in the Moon theatre in London, Clive Wedderburn and Roger Sewall played the leads. The play was directed by Steven Luckie.

Children of the Night, a series of lesbian and gay vignettes linked by music and dance, comes to the Brock Peters Communications Bridge Institute for a six-week run Nov. 14-Dec. 26.

This revised and expanded production is being written and staged by Stephen Semien and produced by Carlton Youngblood.



Children of the Night

MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS

ADEVA
"Love or Lust"
(Capitol)

Watch out Children, the Queen of House Music is back in effect, and slammin' harder than ever! The title of Queen is a lofty one indeed, considering that Adeva used to be a school teacher before embarking on a career in the music industry.

Her first album, released on the Cooltempo label in London, broke out big. The record went platinum (over one million units sold) in England, and gold in Australia. The stateside buildup started when the import single "Respect" packed dance floors in gay clubs across the nation, then crossed over into straight clubs.

The strong, confident nature of her voice is what grabs you first. "Voice is a raw talent—a gift from God," said the diva by phone from London, where she was in the midst of another European tour. "Although I came up singing in the church, I really didn't do anything to develop it." She maintains her voice by singing all the time, whether in bed or in the shower.

Growing up in New Jersey, Adeva jammed heavily to the sounds of Michael Jackson and the Jackson 5. But as she grew older, she forsook the pop tip for singers with more emotion. Talking about musical influences, names like Sarah Vaughan, Aretha and Gladys Knight come to her mind, but the singer she



credits with the greatest influence on her own development as a singer is Anita Baker. "I like 'gut singers,' the diva continued. "None of that lollypop, gum-chewin' stuff that's out now. Take me to church, honey; make me feel something."

After she became a teacher, she happened to be out at a club one night with her boyfriend at the time. When the featured entertainment (dance music maven Sybil) took the stage, Adeva had a revelation. "After a couple of numbers, I said, 'If she can do it, I know I can!' Honey, that was my opportunity knockin'!"

Other than her assured, "don't-even-try-it" singing style, Adeva is also strongly connected with her visual image. She admits to trying anything new, and loves to experiment with different looks. This willingness to change looks on a whim has drawn several comparisons to another classic diva that the Children follow closely: Grace Jones.

Acknowledging the mu-

sic business as sometimes being too image-intensive, she cites dance/pop groups C+C Music Factory and Black Box as recent examples. "Now why wouldn't they put Martha Wash on the cover of the album?," she asked, referring to the singer who did most of the lead vocals on the latest albums of both groups. "She's a large woman, but she's beautiful. Why put Zelma [C+C's lead "singer"] on stage if it's not her voice?"

Such outspoken views and outrageous style gestures appeal to a wide variety of audiences, especially the Children. "The gay community are my biggest followers, and I love it! As a matter of fact, there's a club in Holland called 'It' and it's happening; tons of American men, partyin' day and night!" Adeva loves the Children, and thinks we are her best audience because of our honesty. And nobody better ever try criticizing the Children either. "You choose how to live your life; do what you need to do to be happy! It's not fair to

judge others like that."

Adeva's current album, *Love or Lust*, is deeply rooted in the house music tradition, mixing slammin' dance tracks and down-tempo house cuts. Relationships are the theme, and four dreaded letters have affected the whole scenario. "AIDS is a definite force on the dating scene, pushing people back into 'conventional' relationships," she noted from her travels abroad. She clearly sees more couples out in the clubs than single people. "Folks are finally realizing that it's a 'people's' disease, and not just a 'gay' disease."

Love or Lust is definitely worth seeking out. Lush string arrangements evoke disco's dance-all-night feeling, but the album's strength lies in its bass-heavy rhythms and club-oriented percussion tracks. Hip hop beats come into play seamlessly on "No Need To Get Emotional," "Who Do You Love," and the album's best track, "No Good." Although the dance energy pumps hard, the versatile Adeva turns to 'the Voice' to handle some excellent ballads (be sure to check out "Until You Come Back To Me," and "I Would Die For You").

Any parting shots from the Diva? "I'm proud I didn't have to lay on my back to get where I'm at! Trust me, I know plenty of women and men who laid down and opened up to try to get a little further up that ladder." With this one, baby, don't even try it!

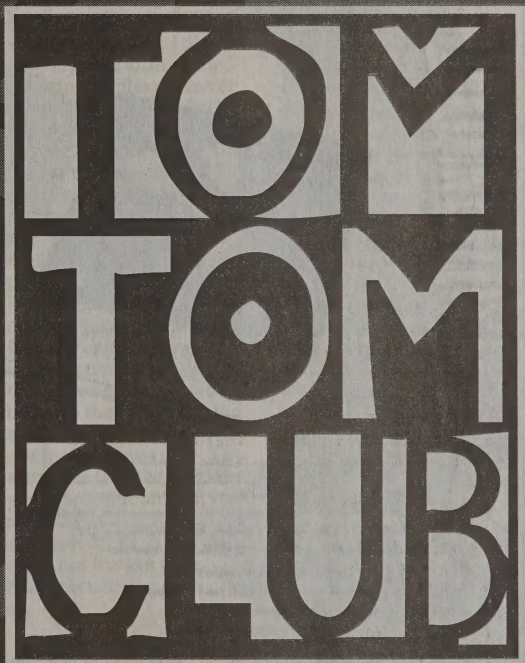
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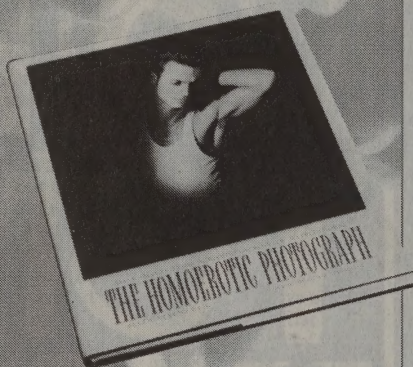


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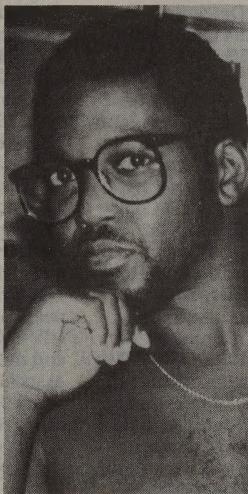
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BOOKS

BY ALAN E. MILLER

S Diane Bogus's *For the Love of Men: Shikata Gai Nai* (\$15, paper, Woman in the Moon Publications) presents some other challenges in that it is a book of poems written by a black lesbian to, for and about black gay men. Bogus takes on an awesome challenge here, in part because, as she says in the not-to-be-skipped introduction to the book, "Often when reading my work on the road, at various times, I have found gay men in the audience and found, too, that I could not read to them directly." Some poems here work much better than others, but even in the ones I don't completely understand, I admire the evident reaching. My favorites are generally the shorter ones, like "Fisting" and this one, "Condom," which reads "Worrisome little hood/ You interrupt our mood/ But rob blooddeath of another Life." Both are exquisite. But I also especially like the poems which take on the persona of drag queens with understanding, wit and a keen eye for the meaningful detail—"Miss Agatha" and "The Faces of Miss Bobby." Bogus brings a great deal of courage and craft to this volume.

Vega's *A Warm December* (\$9.95, paper, Vega Press, Box 784, Sicklerville, N.J. 08081) fulfills, in part, this need. Three of Rory Buchanan's poems are included, though many of the poems, and much of the art, is by Vega. The graphics and art are of a much higher quali-



Vega

ty than his first volume, *Men of Color* (also Vega Press). The work of several other fine artists and poets are included, many of them unfamiliar to me. Though Richard Evans, whose photography I remember in *Other Countries*, is amply represented here. His images of black men are lush, silky, sinewy and erotic. Vega himself has progressed a great deal as a poet since the first volume. I especially liked his "Revelations II and III," and I gained a better appreciation for the "Four Seasons to Love A Man" sequence (which the editor co-authored with w.e.s.) when I heard him read from the volume in the Bay Area. Carl Cook also has an obvious way with words.

I like much of the work included here, but I found the organization problematic. The sections are

named for each season and the book includes a closing section from which the volume takes its name. I believe that the poets would have been better served by having their poems grouped together. I didn't like skipping around the book to find the poems or poets that I liked. I also like the artist's work to create its own context. The structure of the book seemed contrived, not natural. Further, hearing Vega read the "Seasons" sequences together helped me to appreciate the link between his own poems. In my earlier reading of them, I focused on them as an introduction to the poems that followed, important because they prepared the reader for other work, and not for their own sake. This attractive book belongs on your shelf, not only for its sometimes affecting poems, but for its varied and often hot images of us, black men loving each other.

Gloria Hull has authored and edited much important scholarship over the last ten years, including the pioneering texts *All the Women Are White, All the Blacks Are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave*; *Black Women's Studies, Give Us Each Day*; *The Diary of Alice Dunbar Nelson* as well as a Nelson anthology, not to mention *Color, Sex, and Poetry: Three Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance*. Obviously, Hull is an important writer, who shows herself in *Healing Heart* (\$8.95, paper, Kitch-

en Table: Women of Color Press) to be a competent poet as well. One of the most accomplished poems in this collection, in fact, is dedicated to Audre Lorde and addresses issues of lesbian visibility. Other poems were problematic for me, describing sexual and intimate relationships with men—which, on some level, shouldn't be a problem, since that is what I am most often exploring. What makes it valuable to the people I imagine reading this column, however, are poems like "Witches and Queers" and "we love in circles," or "Fasting," or "Loving (In Place)" which includes these lines: "And we kept touching/ the feel of girlish sisters/ learning self through same and other self/ sexless as sand/ but as sensual as the need to sleep/ or cry."

Newly available is an attractive anthology of black male poets called *My Brothers Keeper*. Michael Datcher, a UC-Berkeley student, edited this volume, which includes four poems by 12 writers, including three gay men, all of whom are published elsewhere. Keith Harris and Marvin White, both of whom are represented in *The Road Before Us*, and Jerry Thompson, who was anthologized in *In the Life*. This collection showcases many other talented writers with diverse styles and interests. An inaugural reading held on the UC-Berkeley campus recently gave the other half some exposure to our work and to some of our style.

BLK BRIEFS

C**HICAGO:** Lesbian Chicago and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project have come together at 1902 W. Montrose to create a Lesbian Cultural Center. It has been named Pat Parker Place. **HOLLYWOOD:** Spike Lee, Arsenio Hall, Oprah Winfrey, Keenen Ivory Wayans and Clive Davis have joined the founding board of Hollywood Supports, a project to fight homophobia and AIDSphobia in the entertainment industry. **LOS ANGELES:** Rev. Cecil Murray, pastor of First A.M.E. Church in South Central L.A. shocked his congregation, the local black community and clergymen across the country when he and eight other Southern California ministers passed out 12,500 AIDS-awareness kits including condoms, lubricants and instructions for use following Sunday services. **WASHINGTON:** The D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbian and Gay Men voted down a motion to join the NAACP. **PHILADELPHIA:** BWMT/Philadelphia has changed its name to MACT/Philadelphia. **CLEVELAND:** Police are still seeking clues in the three-

year-old murder and robbery of Wilbur Hamilton. Those with information can call Det. Robert Kalvitz at 216-681-2194 or 216-681-2162. **LOS ANGELES:** Nell Carter, Phylicia Rashad and Salt 'n' Pepa were among the performers featured in the premiere of "Heart Strings," an AIDS benefit scheduled to tour 35-cities. **PHILADELPHIA:** The Philadelphia AIDS Consortium has voted \$925,325 to the Minority AIDS Coalition. **WASHINGTON:** The 1992 National Skills Building Conference takes place Oct. 8-11 at the Sheraton Washington. **RALEIGH, N.C.:** Mandy Carter has announced that Harvey Gantt will be running for the U.S. Senate again in 1996. **UGANDA:** In response to right-wing criticism, the Ugandan Minister of Information and Broadcasting has decreed that the state-run media must cease promoting condoms as a way to prevent HIV infection. **HOLLYWOOD:** The Beverly Hills/Hollywood branch of the NAACP has organized an AIDS Education Committee. **DALLAS:** The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention hosted an AIDS institute, "By

The Social Security Administration has issued a new pamphlet, *A Guide to Social Security and SSI Disability Benefits for People with HIV Infection*. **MALIBU, Calif.:** The second annual Black Gay Men's Retreat, entitled Brother to Brother II, got underway Sept. 25-27 at the Cottontail Ranch. **MIAMI:** Three Marlon Riggs films, *Ethnic Notions*, *Color Adjustment* and *Tongues Untied*, were screened July 17-23 during "Interrogating Identity," a film exhibition which explored "the representation of personal and cultural identity." **LOS ANGELES:** The AIDS Prevention Team has begun peer-to-peer counselor training and HIV wellness groups for both women and men. **WASHINGTON:** The Associates held their 14th annual Bull Roast Sept. 6. **NEW YORK:** Democratic National Committee Chair Ron Brown met with members of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in May. **SAN DIEGO:** PACT/San Diego hosts this year's Pacific Coast Regional Network Oct. 9-12. **LOS ANGELES:** L.A. Police Chief Willie L. Williams spoke before the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU Sept. 23. **HOUSTON:** A new group for lesbians and gay men of color, Coalition of Colors, has planned a Caribbean cruise as their first event. **DETROIT:** The Men of Imani resumed their monthly meetings Aug. 29. **MIAMI:** The Family presented "Murder She Wrote," a workshop on women and AIDS with featured speaker, Sandy Schaps, July 11. **MELBOURNE, Australia:** Tony Ayers has completed *Double Trouble*, a 20-minute film about lesbian and gay Aboriginal Australians. **SAN DIEGO:** The Western Region AIDS Education Project sponsored "HIV and the Second Decade: The Challenge for People of Color" Sept. 24-25. **WASHINGTON:** Congresswoman Maxine Waters was honored by the AIDS Action Foundation with its 1992 AIDS Action Leadership Award Sept. 16. **OAKLAND:** The African-American AIDS Support Services and Survival Institute has moved into a two-story, 4000 sq. ft. facility at 3419 M. L. King Jr. Way.



"He went to see some gay movie this afternoon and he's been like that ever since."

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A publication I read casually	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A publication I page through	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A publication I look for	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A publication I subscribe to	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A place I look for advertisers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A place I look for services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please consider the following statements and place an "x" in a box between Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree to indicate how you yourself feel about each...

	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree
I am more likely to patronize a gay/lesbian owned business	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am more likely to patronize a gay/lesbian supportive business	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am more likely to patronize a business that advertises in the gay/lesbian media	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

BLK (continued)

Please consider the following statements and place an "x" in a box between Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree to indicate how you yourself feel about each...

	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree
I am more likely to patronize a black owned business	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am more likely to patronize a black supportive business	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am more likely to patronize a business that advertises in the black media	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is very little difference between non-black & black media ..	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Non-black media ignore black issues	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Non-black gay/lesbian media ignore black gays and lesbians	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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☐ Other Bookstore	☐ Other

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| ☐ Compact Disc Player | ☐ Exotic Bird | ☐ Aquarium |
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In the past three years, on how many separate occasions have you yourself vacationed in...

0	1	2	3	4	5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16+
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Europe	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hawaii	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Canada	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mexico	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Africa	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Asia	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Central America	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
South America ..	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Caribbean	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

On which of the following airlines have you yourself traveled in the past 12 months (please check all that apply)...

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ United | ☐ Air Canada | ☐ TWA | ☐ Southwest |
| ☐ Eastern | ☐ Continental | ☐ Swissair | ☐ US Air |
| ☐ SAS | ☐ Northwest | ☐ Delta | ☐ American |
| ☐ Japan | ☐ British Airways | ☐ Pan Am | ☐ Qantas |
| ☐ Alitalia | ☐ America West | ☐ KLM | ☐ Other |

What is your favorite Airline:

In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have you yourself done any of the following...

0 1 2 3 4 5 6+

[illegible]

Are you in a frequent flyer program? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, which one:

At which of the following hotels have you stayed in the past 12 months...

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| ☐ Sheraton | ☐ Holiday Inn | ☐ Fairmont | ☐ Hyatt |
| ☐ Marriott | ☐ Embassy Suites | ☐ Red Roof Inn | ☐ Hilton |
| ☐ Ramada | ☐ Comfort Inn | ☐ Double Tree | ☐ Nikko |
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What is your favorite Hotel/Motel: _____

How many times have you changed residence in the past 3 years...

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•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•

•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•

In the past 30 days, on how many separate occasions have you yourself done any of the following...

0 1 2 3 4 5 6+

[illegible]

In the past 12 months, on how many separate occasions have you yourself done any of the following... 0 1 2 3

0 1 2 3 4 5 6+

[illegible]

In the past 30 days, on how many separate occasions have you done the following...

0	1	2	3	4	5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16+
---	---	---	---	---	---	---------	----------	-----

Gone out for breakfast	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gone out for brunch	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gone out for lunch	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gone out for dinner	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gone out for dessert/coffee	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gone out for a late night snack	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

In the past 30 days, on how many separate occasions have you dined/gotten food...

0	1	2	3	4	5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16+
---	---	---	---	---	---	---------	----------	-----

[illegible]

In the past 30 days, on how many separate occasions have you ordered each of the following types of food...

0	1	2	3	4	5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16+
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[illegible]

<\$5 \$5-\$10 \$11-\$15 \$16-20 \$21 +

[illegible]

Which of the following sports/outdoor activities do you participate in...
(please "x" all that apply)

- ☐ Aerobics
- ☐ Hiking/walking
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Boating/sailing
- ☐ Softball
- ☐ Jogging/running
- ☐ Baseball
- ☐ Rollerblading
- ☐ Tennis
- ☐ Billiards/pool
- ☐ Golf
- ☐ Weight lifting
- ☐ Soccer
- ☐ Basketball
- ☐ Football
- ☐ Scuba/snorkeling
- ☐ Bicycling
- ☐ Fishing/hunting
- ☐ Bowling
- ☐ Water skiing
- ☐ Volleyball
- ☐ Snow skiing

Which of the following leisure time activities do you enjoy...

☐ Reading ☐ Photography
☐ Antiquing ☐ Board Games
☐ Shopping ☐ Working out
☐ Gardening ☐ Watching TV
☐ Writing ☐ Music (listening)
☐ Cooking ☐ Socializing/talking
☐ Arts/crafts ☐ Drawing/painting

At how many different banks, savings & loans, or credit unions do you yourself have accounts... 0 1 2 3 4 5 6+

0 1 2 3 4 5 6+

Which of the following do you yourself have?
(please check all that apply)

☐ Checking Account	☐ Savings Account
☐ Individual Retirement Account	☐ Investment Property
☐ Savings Certificates/CDs	☐ City/Municipal Bonds
☐ American Express - Green	☐ Money Market Account
☐ American Express - Gold	☐ Discover Card
☐ American Express - Platinum	☐ AT&T Universal Card
☐ American Express - Optima	☐ Mastercard - Gold
☐ American Express - Corporate	☐ Mastercard - Preferred
☐ Visa - Gold	☐ Mastercard - Dallas Gay All.
☐ Visa - Preferred	☐ Mastercard
☐ Visa	☐ Depart. Store Charge card
☐ Common/Preferred Stock	☐ Automatic Teller Card

Are you registered to vote? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Did you vote in the last general election? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Did you vote in the last primary election? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Did you vote in the 1988 Presidential primary election? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Did you vote in the 1988 Presidential general election? ☐ No ☐ Yes

What if any is your political affiliation...

☐ Democrat ☐ Republican ☐ Independent ☐ Socialist
☐ Communist ☐ Libertarian ☐ Other ☐ None

How conservative/liberal are you in terms of...

Very Conservative

Very Liberal

civil rights □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

fiscal issues □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

social programs □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

TELEPHONE USAGE

In the past 30 days, how many personal long distance phone calls within the United States calls have you made...

0 1 2 3 4 5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 26-30 31+

In the past 30 days, how many personal long distance phone calls outside the United States calls have you made...

0 1 2 3 4 5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 26-30 31+

In the past 30 days, how many "900" number phone calls have you made...

0 1 2 3 4 5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 26-30 31+

Who is your primary long distance telephone carrier...

☐ AT&T ☐ Allnet ☐ U.S. Sprint
☐ Metromedia ☐ Western Union ☐ ITT/Longer Distance
☐ MCI ☐ Other, specify _____

How much was your last months long distance phone bill...

☐ \$0 ☐ < \$10 ☐ \$11-\$20 ☐ \$21-\$30 ☐ \$31-\$40
☐ \$41-\$50 ☐ \$51-\$75 ☐ \$76-\$100 ☐ \$101-\$150 ☐ \$151 +

SAFE SEX

How well informed do you believe you are about safe-sex practices used to protect against the spread of AIDS...

Not at all Informed ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Well Informed

How important do you personally believe it is for a person who is sexually active to be tested for the HIV virus at least once a year...

Not at all Important ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Important

Over the past 12 months, how often have you engaged in UNSAFE-SEX...

☐ Never ☐ 1 or 2 Times ☐ 3 to 5 Times
☐ 6 to 10 Times ☐ 11 to 20 Times ☐ 21 to 50 Times
☐ 51 to 100 Times ☐ Over 100 Times ☐ Don't Know

Over the past 12 months, which of the following sexual activities, if any, have you engaged in ("x" any that apply. Note: some items are gender specific)...

☐ Men only: Active anal sex (top) without wearing a condom
☐ Passive anal sex (bottom) with a male partner not wearing a condom
☐ Having a male partner ejaculate ("cum") in your mouth
☐ Men Only: Ejaculating ("cumming") in the mouth of your partner
☐ Mutual masturbation to the point of orgasm ("cumming")
☐ Sharing sex toys (dildos, vibrators, and so forth)
☐ Women only: Oral sex without using a dental dam

SEXUAL/AFFECTIONAL ORIENTATION

How sexually attracted are you to members of your own sex...

Not at All ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Much

How sexually attracted are you to members of the other sex...

Not at All ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very Much

What word best describes your sexual/affectional orientation...

☐ Gay ☐ Lesbian ☐ Homosexual ☐ Bisexual
☐ Dyke ☐ Queer ☐ Heterosexual ☐ Other
"Outness"

How "out" are you (open about your homosexuality/bisexuality) with respect to each of the following groups...

	N.A.	Not at All	Totally
Brother(s)	☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐
Sister(s)	☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐
Father	☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐
Mother	☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐
Extended family members	☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐
People you work with	☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐
Straight friends	☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐
Gay/lesbian friends	☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐
Your other-sex partner	☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐

DEMOGRAPHIC/HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Sex: ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Transgenderous

Race: ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander ☐ African-American (black)

☐ Native American ☐ White ☐ Hispanic/Latino(a)

Which of the following age categories reflects your age...

☐ Under 18 ☐ 26-30 ☐ 41-45 ☐ 56-60 ☐ 71-75
☐ 18-20 ☐ 31-35 ☐ 46-50 ☐ 61-65 ☐ 76-80
☐ 21-25 ☐ 36-40 ☐ 51-55 ☐ 66-70 ☐ 81 or over

Including yourself, how many people 18 or older live in your household...

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7+

Including yourself, how many people under 18 live in your household...

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7+

Which of the following best describes your same-sex relationship status...

☐ Involved, live apart ☐ Involved, live together ☐ Not Involved

DEMOGRAPHIC/HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION (continued)

With whom of the following do you currently live ("x" all that apply)...

☐ Alone ☐ Same-Sex Partner(s) ☐ Roommate(s)
☐ Parent(s) ☐ Other-Sex Partner(s) ☐ Your Children
☐ Sibling(s) ☐ Extended Family Adult(s) ☐ Other

Which of the following best describes your current employment status...

☐ Not Employed ☐ Self-employed with no other employees
☐ Employed ☐ Self-employed with additional employees

If Not Employed, are you...

☐ Retired ☐ Full-time Student ☐ Homemaker
☐ Disabled ☐ Between Jobs ☐ Do not work ☐ Other

If employed, what type of business are you in (example: Bank; Hospital; University; Airline; Department Store; Computer Manufacturer;):

If employed, what is your job title (example: Clerk; Doctor; Secretary; Waiter; Technician; Programmer; Vice-President; Accountant; Lawyer)

What is your total annual household income before taxes...

☐ Under \$15,000 ☐ \$45,000-\$49,999 ☐ \$100,000-\$124,999
☐ \$15,000-\$19,999 ☐ \$50,000-\$54,999 ☐ \$125,000-\$149,999
☐ \$20,000-\$24,999 ☐ \$55,000-\$59,999 ☐ \$150,000-\$174,999
☐ \$25,000-\$29,999 ☐ \$60,000-\$64,999 ☐ \$175,000-\$199,999
☐ \$30,000-\$34,999 ☐ \$65,000-\$69,999 ☐ \$200,000-\$224,999
☐ \$35,000-\$39,999 ☐ \$70,000-\$74,999 ☐ \$225,000-\$249,999
☐ \$40,000-\$44,999 ☐ \$75,000-\$99,999 ☐ \$250,000 +

How many people including yourself contribute to this income...

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6+

What is the highest level of education you have completed...

☐ Some high school ☐ Some college ☐ 4-Year Degree
☐ High school grad. ☐ Associate degree ☐ Master's Degree
☐ Ph.D. Degree ☐ M.D. ☐ JD

How do you describe the area in which you live...

☐ City ☐ Suburbs ☐ Small town ☐ Rural/country

PRODUCT CHOICES

How many of each of the following items have you purchased in the past 30 days...

[illegible]

If you have a favorite brand or designer,
please write it down in the space provided...

[illegible]

BUYING HABITS

In the past 30 days, how many of each of the following have you purchased...

[illegible]

In the past 12 months, which of the following have you purchased...
(please "x" all that apply)

☐ Television	☐ Stereo	☐ VCR
☐ Compact Disc Player	☐ 35 mm Camera	☐ Truck
☐ Designer Clothing	☐ Travelers Checks	☐ Luggage
☐ Imported Car	☐ Condominium	☐ House
☐ Domestic Car	☐ Leather Jacket	☐ Camcorder
☐ Exercise Equipment	☐ Cellular Phone	☐ Boat
☐ Living Room Furniture	☐ Dish Washer	☐ Fur Coat
☐ Bedroom Furniture	☐ Carpeting	☐ Microwave
☐ Kitchen Appliances	☐ Tile/Linoleum	☐ Fine Jewelry
☐ Home Computer	☐ Espresso Machine	☐ Futon
☐ Art: Ceramics	☐ Art: Paintings	☐ Art: Prints
☐ Business Suit	☐ Trench/Top Coat	☐ Rug
☐ Cleaning Service	☐ Dating Service	☐ Watch



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BLK NEWS

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Judge Rules in PWA's Favor

NEW YORK—U.S. Federal District Judge Thomas Hogan rejected a motion by the federal government to dismiss a legal challenge to the mandatory HIV testing policy of the U.S. Job Corps. Judge Hogan ruled Aug. 10 that James Dorsey had asserted a valid legal claim in alleging that the Job Corp policy violates the federal Rehabilitation Act.

Without first seeking Dorsey's informed consent or performing required pre-test counseling, Job Corps tested Dorsey for HIV in 1987 upon his admission to the program's residential center in Dayton, Ohio. When tests revealed that he was HIV positive, Job Corps dismissed Dorsey from the program, without even counseling him regarding the meaning of his test results.

Dorsey, who is black, was 18 at the time, unemployed and in need of the specialized vocation training that Job Corps provides.

In 1988, Dorsey filed suit challenging the Job Corps action on constitutional and statutory grounds. In response to Dorsey's lawsuit, Job Corps amended its HIV policy. The amended policy maintained the earlier policy's mandatory HIV testing provision, but provided that applicants who tested HIV positive would be permitted to receive Job Corps vocational training if they passed an intensive "psycho-social" evaluation.

Dorsey is represented by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and by Lambda's cooperating attorneys from the Manhattan law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed.

Baker Takes NAPWA Post

WASHINGTON—The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) has announced the appointment of A. Cornelius Baker as the new Director of Public Policy and Education.

Baker was previously confidential assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Health, National AIDS Program Office at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Before that he was administrative assistant to former District Councilmember Carol Schwartz. Baker is a native of central New York and received his undergraduate degree at Elsenhower College/Rochester Institute of Technology.

HRCF Names Carter to Post

WASHINGTON—Mandy Carter has joined the staff of the Human Rights Campaign Fund as its southeast regional field coordinator. An activist with over 25 years experience as a grassroots organizer, Carter will recruit and motivate volunteers for the Campaign Fund's Field Associates Network throughout the southeast and in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

"Mandy Carter earned a national reputation during the

1990 North Carolina Senate race as director of Senate Vote '90, the political organization that coordinated lesbian and gay efforts to defeat anti-gay incumbent Senator Jesse Helms," noted Tacie Dejanikus, the Campaign Fund's deputy field director. "She is an exceptional organizer and activist who will bring enormous strength and vitality to our efforts throughout the Southeast."

"I am really excited about this position," Carter notes. "The Campaign Fund has been making enormous progress for our community on the national level. I hope to increase the involvement of lesbians and gay men throughout the South, especially in this critical election year." Carter will travel extensively throughout the South as the Campaign Fund's regional coordinator.

Black AIDS Efforts Launched

PHILADELPHIA—Philadelphia's first safe-sex campaign specifically targeted at black and Latino men who have sex with men was launched recently as part of an effort to stem the spread of AIDS among racial minorities.

"We can't ignore gay and bisexual [racial] minorities," said Kevin R. Westcott, outreach coordinator for Unity Inc., an advocate for gay and bisexual black men as he unveiled a set of new erotic posters that promote the use of condoms.

The 13,000 posters, to be widely distributed at bathhouses, gay bars and bookstores, were shown during a news conference attended by several dozen representatives of AIDS social-service agencies and city health officials.

Financed by a \$6,000 grant from the city, the posters were developed by Unity and The GALAEI Project, a group that promotes safe-sex among gay and bisexual Latino men.

—Huntly Collins

Consortium Project Funded

SAN FRANCISCO—The Gay Men of Color Consortium (GMCC) in San Francisco recently was awarded a \$200,000 grant for minority health issues. The three-year project will assist in the development of HIV risk reduction education models for gay men and at-risk women in four ethnic communities.

The award, from the Office of Minority Health, is for a Minority Community Health Coalition Demonstration Project. This demonstration project continues the work begun under the Risk-Reduction Train-the-Trainer (R2T2) Project, a one-year effort intended to create culturally-specific and appropriate models in each of the four communities. R2T2 had been funded by Northern California Grantmakers.

Jesse Johnson has been engaged as coordinator of the program. He brings extensive skills from his work with community organizations in Texas, such as Informe-SIDA, Austin; La Pena, Inc.; Minority HIV Coalition; and Austin-Travis County HIV Commission.

The GMCC is comprised of five agencies: American Indian AIDS Institute; Bay Area HIV Support & Education Services; Comunidad Unida en Respuesta al SIDA; Gay Asian Pacific Alliance Community HIV Project; with the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together acting as lead agency.

Family Holds Benefit

NORTH MIAMI—The Family Foundation held its First Annual AIDS Benefit Banquet and Dance in the main ballroom of the Miami Inn July 18.

Keynote speaker Rasheed Baaith, a founding member of the National Black Alliance for AIDS Health Issues, addressed the approximately 80 attendees.

Family founder Darryl K. Baxter presented certificates of appreciation to individuals in the community for their support of the group's efforts during the past year.

The foundation, known locally as simply "Family," is an African-American community-based, volunteer social service agency which concentrates its efforts on HIV/AIDS education. Over the past year, the organization has sponsored a series of home-based workshops and seminars in the Opa Locka area emphasizing HIV/AIDS and the role of intimate relationships in personal development.

Additional activities during the past year have included condom distribution at local bars and the initiation of confidential STD counseling and referral services for persons in underserved areas of the community. Additional projects have included providing food to a local homeless shelter and gifts for needy children.

Several hundred people attended the post-banquet dance.

Nia Holds Sausalito Gathering

OAKLAND—The Nia Collective will hold its fifth annual Gathering for Lesbians of African Descent Nov. 20-22 at Marin Headlands in Sausalito, Calif. The weekend consists of workshops, networking and recreational events.

The purpose of the Gathering, according to a release, is to "reaffirm our existence, create an atmosphere for growth and empowerment, and nurture an environment of continual solidarity and warmth in our community."

The Nia Collective developed out of the Black Caucus of a 1987 San Francisco Lesbians of Color Conference.

Blacks Red on Day o' Green

NEW YORK—At the behest of the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO), many African-American lesbians and gay men counted themselves in among hundreds of protesters on March 17 to decry ILGO's exclusion from the Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Despite its petitioning and campaigning for more than a year to be permitted to march in the famous parade up fashionable Fifth Ave., ILGO's efforts were officially nixed in court. Last year's parade generated much notoriety for the lesbian and gay group when, given permission to march at virtually the eleventh hour, they were accompanied by Mayor Dinkins who braved insults and objects hurled by

ornery spectators.

"We need to stick together," one marcher named Ken told BLK. "If it could happen to them, it could happen to us."

"One part of me is surprised," said ILGO spokesperson Brendan Fay, of the ethnically diverse crowd. "And yet another part of me is not surprised at all. It's in fact other communities, the African-American community, the Puerto Rican community and the women's community, who know bigotry and who are familiar with discrimination and share our experience." Fay, who is from Ireland, lost his teaching job here last year as a result of marching in the parade. He added, "It makes sense to me, it's natural that they would be here with us."

Phil Reed, a Democratic district leader from Manhattan's Upper West Side, was one of many public and political figures who chose to join the protest march in support of ILGO rather than the parade which followed. "As black and brown and yellow and Native American people, we also have to make ourselves visible," said Reed. "If we identify as gay and lesbian, we can't stand on the side any longer."

Other familiar faces in the crowd included those of the poet and editor Assoto Saint; Marjorie Hill, the Mayor's liaison to the lesbian and gay community; and Sandra Lowe, director of the Governor's Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

—Eric K. Washington

Joint Chiefs OKs Gay Ban

WASHINGTON—The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff supports the military ban on gay men and lesbians for fear they would find heterosexual soldiers "sexually attractive" and thereby distress them.

Closeted homosexuals are not a problem, said the U.S. senior military commander, General Colin Powell, but open gays might undermine "order and discipline."

Powell fears the military could end up having to build separate barracks, showers and toilets for homosexuals.

"[The gay ban] is not a security argument, and it is not an argument of performance on the part of homosexuals who might be in uniform, and it is not saying they are not good enough," Powell said. "It is just my judgment and the judgment of the chiefs that homosexual behavior is inconsistent with maintaining good order and discipline."

"What do I mean by that?" Powell asked. "I mean it is difficult in a military setting where there is no privacy, where you don't get a choice of association, where you don't get a choice of where you live, to introduce a group of individuals who are proud, brave, loyal, good Americans, but who favor a homosexual lifestyle, and put them in with heterosexuals who would prefer not to have somebody of



General Colin Powell

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Co-chairs Vallerie Wagner & Jonathan Poullard

the same sex find them sexually attractive, put them in close proximity, ask them to share the most private facilities together, the bedroom, the barracks, latrines, the showers. I think that it is a very difficult problem to give the military. I think it would be prejudicial to good order and discipline to try to integrate that in the current military structure."

—Rex Wockner

Carl Bean Hospice Opens

LOS ANGELES—Ribbon cutting and dedication ceremonies were held for the Carl Bean AIDS Care Center on Sept. 21. A joint development of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the Minority AIDS Project (MAP) and the Black Los Angeles AIDS Commission (BLAAC), the center was conceived as a state-of-the-art AIDS hospice and nursing facility with special sensitivity to the needs of South Central Los Angeles's underserved, primarily African-American and Latino population.

The grand opening was a culmination of a three-year effort to refurbish a neglected Dutch Colonial manor into elegant community rooms and build a new 25 room residential AIDS care wing. The center will offer 24-hour nursing for residents, and will provide care regardless of ability to pay. It was realized despite state budget cuts and city red tape which delayed approval of such necessities as conditional use and building use permits.

The hospice will be administered by AHF, which also administers the Chris Brownlie Hospice and the Hollywood Center Hospice.

AHF founder and president Michael Weinstein joined Los Angeles City Councilmen Nate Holden and Mark Ridley-Thomas, California State Senator Diane Watson, long time AHF supporter Estelle Getty and Dr. Wilbert Jordan of BLAAC in honoring Bishop Bean at the 10 a.m. ribbon cutting.

Bishop Bean, along with Weinstein and the late Chris Brownlie, envisioned the South Central hospice. Bean is the founder of MAP and a long-time proponent of minority AIDS care.

The Carl Bean AIDS Center is located at 2146 W. Adams Blvd.

—Shawn Hinds

Johnson Quits AIDS Panel

WASHINGTON—Earvin "Magic" Johnson resigned from the National Commission on AIDS Sept. 25 criticizing the Bush administration for fighting the disease with "lip service and photo opportunities." In his letter to Bush, the retired basketball star wrote that "along with my fellow commission members, I have been increasingly frustrated by the lack of support, and even the opposition, of your administration to our recommendations—recommendations which have an urgent priority and for which there is a broad consensus in the medical and AIDS communities.

"AIDS is a crisis of monumental proportions and it cannot be fought with lip service and photo opportunities. I cannot in good conscience continue to serve on a commission whose important work is so utterly ignored by your Administration."

"Mr. President, when we met in January I gave you a letter in which I expressed my hope that you would become

more actively involved in the fight against AIDS. No matter how good the team may be, I said, it won't win the championship without the owner fully in the game. I am disappointed that you have dropped the ball, and that your administration is not doing everything that it must to fight this disease."

Coalition Hosts Annual Dinner

SAN FRANCISCO—The Black Coalition on AIDS (BCA) will hold its third annual Benefit Dinner and Awards Ceremony Oct. 24 at San Francisco's Galleria Design Center.

Entitled "A Season of Change," the dinner will honor individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in the battle against HIV/AIDS within the African-American community. California Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr., whose voting record and public stance on HIV-related issues is exemplary, is one of this year's honorees and is also slated to give the keynote address at the dinner.

"There seems to be a tendency among non-African Americans to distance themselves from organizations like BCA under the premise that the issues involved do not affect them," said BCA board director Gregory Adams. "The fact is that the continued rampant spread of HIV disease within any community affects all of us in one way or another."

—Shawn Hinds

'Change' Comes to L.A.

WASHINGTON—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will hold its fifth annual Creating Change Conference at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton. Activities over the Nov. 13-15 weekend include more than 95 workshops that will cover AIDS, grassroots organizing, election-year politics, the '93 March on Washington, and fighting the Far Right.

Among the numerous political figures and movement leaders attending will be Ruth Waters, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum co-chair; Ernest Hopkins from the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays; and Joan Jett Blakk, Chicago drag activist and 1992 candidate for U.S. President.

A People of Color Organizing Institute will be featured on the 12th, and on the 14th a gala fundraiser—"Stand Up for Your Rights, II"—will showcase stand-up comedy and performance art. Following the gala will be a "farewell" tribute to Urvashi Vaid of NGLTF and Torie Osborn of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, who will leave executive positions in their respective organizations this year.

—Shawn Hinds

BGLLF to Long Beach in 1993

LOS ANGELES—"Black Lesbians and Gays: Building Bridges, Making Connections," will be the theme of the sixth annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Institutes, slated for Feb. 11-15 at the Hilton Hotel in Long Beach, Calif. Participants will focus on the need to bridge the gaps that separate the African-American community around issues of gender, race, and sexual orientation.

The Conference has drawn from, and is currently soliciting, vendors, workshop presenters, and volunteers in the African-American, lesbian and gay communities. Topics to be discussed at the five-day event include leadership, culture/arts, family/youth, heterosexism, health, public policy, economics, women's/men's issues, and spirituality.

—Shawn Hinds

Gay South African Murdered

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—British Sgxabai, chair of the kwaThema Township chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand, was murdered late last year by a homophobic relative, according to *The Weekly Mail*.

Sgxabai was attacked with a pitchfork and later died of head wounds, the newspaper said. There have, however, been no arrests, and Sgxabai's family claims he was mugged by a stranger.

One hundred GLOW activists marched from Sgxabai's funeral to the cemetery. "I think Sgxabai will be for us what Steve Biko was for black people and Hector Petersen was for students—a tragic symbol of our oppression," said GLOW founder Tseko Simon Nkoli.

The Weekly Mail said "Sgxabai's death serves as a critical galvanizing point for gays and lesbians, who see the constant physical danger of assault as their most pressing issue."

British Group Nixes POC

LONDON—OutRage, which has an agenda similar to the U.S.'s Queer Nation, voted 27-3 to dissolve all subgroups, including people of color, disabled, Lesbians Answer Back in Anger (LABIA) and working class.

The membership said the groups cost too much and distracted from the fight against homophobia, according to an article in *Capital Gay*.

LABIA spokeswoman Katherine Lockwood was "disgusted" by the vote. "We have been thrown out of OutRage," she charged.

—Rex Wockner

Blacks Form New Demo Club

SAN FRANCISCO—Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action in San Francisco is the first such organization in the country, yet its leaders are anything but novices in the political process.

The birthing of the new political club was anything but an overnight event or an easy delivery. Friction between the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, which was San Francisco's largest, and its Black Caucus had grown steadily for some six months. Board meetings turned into righteous shouting matches where members stood on tables; one of the Black Caucus co-chairs had been called a "nigger" over the telephone by a Milk Club Member, and the Caucus had even sought to have the Milk Club's charter revoked.

Byron McQuarters, former Milk Club vice-president, told BLK that the membership was near 75 and climbing, a hearty sign for a brand new political organization. McQuarters expressed confidence that the New Club would be everything to the lesbian and gay communities of color that the

Milk Club was not.

During a weekend retreat, members of LAGADDA and their new officers reflected on the ways in which they could serve the emerging lesbian and gay African-American community. In contrast to the picture painted in local media, many former Milk Club members were grateful for a chance to cut their political teeth. Among events remembered fondly were the 1990 Milk Club dinner which honored Keith St. John, first openly gay African American elected to political office.

LAGADDA co-chairs Randy Miller and Kerrington Osborne have both expressed excitement about the prospects for the new club in San Francisco's unique political environment. Miller was the national lesbian and gay issues coordinator for Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign. Osborne is a former co-chair of the San Francisco Rainbow Coalition. Both men have years of experience in political activity under their belt, yet have expressed their willingness to work alongside the organization's neophytes.

—Mark Haile

Prof Said to Be Name Caller

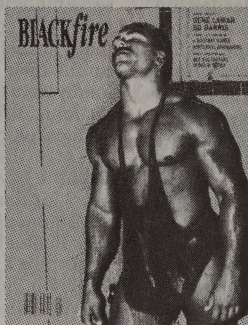
CALIFORNIA, Pa.—California University of Pennsylvania will investigate allegations that a professor who failed 22 of 37 students in a course last semester also made racist, sexist and other harassing comments to the class.

The accusations surfaced during grade appeal hearings for some of the students who failed Professor Edward Brown's Minority Group Relations course.

Brown issued 22 Fs, 11 Ds and 4 Cs to students in his class, said Nancy Nelson, vice president for academic affairs at Cal U. No one got an A or a B, she said.

During some of the hearings, students accused Brown of making disparaging remarks during his classes to a student with a disability, a Jewish student and women.





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Students allege that Brown, who is black, referred to women as "prostitutes and whores," to white students as "whiteys," and to sorority members as "lesbians."

Brown, an associate professor of social work who has been on the faculty since 1967, has declined repeated oral and written requests for comment.

North Carolina Begats Group

DURHAM, N.C.—A successful potluck held by a few black lesbians and gay men in June 1991 lead to the formation of Umoja: An Open Community of Lesbians and Gay Men of African-American Descent.

Umoja, which means "unity" in Swahili, hopes to provide an outlet where black lesbians and gay men can come together to pursue common social political, cultural and educational interests. Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month.

This is the second major attempt to organize Triangle area black lesbians and gay men. A group sprang to life in 1985, but perished two years later.

Pat Bear and Carlton Rutherford are co-chairs of the new group.

BMX Plans 1993 Conference

SACRAMENTO—The Black Men's Xchange has set Sacramento as the place and Feb. 4-7 as the dates for its 1993 National Cultural Gathering and Retreat. The annual conference will be hosted by BMX/Sacramento.

Among the workshops scheduled for the conference are the "Politics of AIDS," "Community Activism," "Black Female and Male Relationships," "Defining the Black Family," "Black Youth," "Homosexuality in the Black Family," "Racial Sexual Preferences," "White Supremacist Dynamics in Blackface," "Black Imagery," "Black Literacy" and "Recycling Black Dollars."

BMX held its first National Cultural Gathering and Retreat Feb. 14-16, 1991 in Oakland.

African Drug Gets Closer Look

WASHINGTON—Federal AIDS officials said on Aug. 21 that in light of a new report on the effects of Kemron, an AIDS drug developed in Africa, they would meet soon to re-evaluate the drug. Until recently, Kemron had been dismissed as a fraud by the U.S. medical establishment.

The drug's main supporters in this country include the Nation of Islam, which plans to market a version of the drug in the States, and currently has Muslim doctors using low-dose alpha interferon, of which Kemron is one brand, to treat some 300 patients in the New York and D.C. area. Also calling for increased federally sponsored studies of Kemron is the National Medical Association, the largest group of black physicians in the U.S.

Kenyan immunologist Davy Koesch, pioneer of research into low-dose alpha interferon, first published his findings on the treatment's positive effects in 1990, after which word spread that a black researcher outside the U.S. medical establishment had found a possible cure for AIDS.

While two reports over the last two years by the World Health Organization and the National Institute of Health

have disputed Koesch's more extreme claims of widespread seroconversion (change in HIV status from positive to negative), both called for its continued study. The U.S. media, however, interpreted these reports as dismissals of Kemron's positive benefits entirely. Koesch has accused the U.S. AIDS bureaucracy and pharmaceuticals industry, which has an interest in currently used AIDS drugs such as AZT, of slowing its testing in the U.S.

Koesch claims in his most recent report that in half of the 2500 people treated with Kemron, the most debilitating symptoms of AIDS virus infection were drastically reduced or eliminated within a year, without the serious side effects of drugs like AZT. Koesch maintains that seroconversion occurs in 10 percent of his patients. —Shawn Hinds

Gentlemen Raise \$35K

LOS ANGELES—For the seventh year in a row, Gentlemen Concerned, a fund-raising group based in L.A.'s African American community, distributed \$35,000 in grants to L.A. organizations serving HIV-positive African-Americans and Latinos.

The five recipients of this year's grants include Minority AIDS Project (\$16,000), Imani Unidos AIDS Project of South Central Los Angeles (\$10,000), Rue's House (\$4,500), Aid for AIDS (\$3,000) and Ebony Haus (\$1,500).

The MAP grant will pay the mortgage for its Dignity House, a South Central L.A. residence for homeless people with AIDS. Imani Unidos, the newest organization, is a food pantry for People with AIDS. Rue's House provides shelter for women with AIDS and their children. Ebony Haus is a homeless shelter in Long Beach, and Aid for AIDS, a West Hollywood organization, provides direct cash grants to a large number of African-Americans and Latinos.

Since their efforts began in 1986, Gentlemen Concerned has raised over \$171,000 for HIV/AIDS services.

—Shawn Hinds



BLK VEIL

STANLEY BROWN, born Dec. 5, 1948, died May 6, 1991, as disclosed in *Xtra*.

VINCE BUTLER, died Oct. 19, 1991, of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. Born and raised in New Jersey, Butler graduated high school, attended Howard University and finally enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Honorably discharged after some years, he returned to D.C. where he worked as a reservations sales agent for Delta Air Lines until his leave of absence in 1990. He was 48.

DAVID EDWARDS, who was born Aug. 18, 1953, died March 18. In 1979, Edwards graduated from Rutgers University with double degrees in psychology and African studies. Edwards, an accomplished singer and actor, appeared in numerous productions in New York. He was employed by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, and was active in several other civic organizations. He is survived by his mother and other relatives.

ZAWADI-LAZARUS GARRETT, died Jan. 10, of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. A native of North Carolina, Garrett graduated from high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army before settling in Washington. He volunteered as an AIDS educator and worked with AMBI and AMBUSH bisexual activism groups. Cofounder of the St. Moses-the-Black Orthodox community in Northeast Washington, Garrett was ordained as a deacon and organized healing services for people with AIDS.

ROBERT S. HART, born Sept. 28, 1947, died July 17 of AIDS associated complications as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Hart, a graduate of San Jose State University, began his career in interior design in 1968 with several major designers. He moved to New York in 1973 and eventually started his own business on Fire Island. Much of his work could be seen in *New York* magazine, the *New York Times* and in *Metropolitan Home*. Traveling extensively in Europe, Hart was a connoisseur of furniture and accessories. He was 43.

GORDON HEATH, 73, died Aug. 28, 1991, in Paris according to *Gay Times*. Heath, one of Britain's leading black actors, performed in *Othello* and *Sapphire*. Moving to Great Britain from the United States to pursue his acting career, he was also a director and cabaret artist. Moving to Paris in the 1950s, Heath and his lover, Lee Payant, opened a cafe and entertained there for many years.

JOEL B. IRVINE, born Aug. 11, 1959, died Nov. 11, 1991, according to the *Bay Area Reporter*. He was 32. A San Francisco resident, Irvine worked for the San Francisco Department of Parks and Recreation until his death. With a love for music, he designed the Junior Disc Jockey Program for disadvantaged youths across the city. Irvine was a member of Foggy City Dancers.

ALEXANDER OMEGA JARAMILLO, who was born June 1, 1954, died Nov. 22 of complications associated with AIDS as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Jaramillo worked as a nurse with the Coming Home Hospice Group and with Kimberly Quality Care. A memorial service was held Dec. 6. He is survived by his mother and numerous relatives.

MARK A. JOHNSON, a former employee of Grant Medical Center, was found murdered in his residence Jan. 17 according to *Stonewall Union Reports*. He was 34. Police said that Johnson's death was the result of a beating.

BRYAN JOSEPH died March 29 of complications related to AIDS. He was 30. Born in Louisville, Ky., Joseph lived in Lakeview Terrace, Calif., where he died. He held jobs in hospitals and was employed as an Eddie Murphy lookalike.

MELVIN LINDSEY, 36, the late-night radio DJ whose 1970s "Quiet Storm" show and format influenced a generation of radio programmers nationwide, died March 26 of complications related to AIDS. Lindsey, who was born and raised in D.C., graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and Howard University. In addition to co-hosting *Screen Scene* on Black Entertainment Television, he anchored a Sunday morning talk show on Baltimore's WJZ-TV. Lindsey is survived by his parents, three sisters and two brothers.

WILLIS ROBERT LOMAX, JR., 57, died Jan. 4, 1992 of complications associated with AIDS according to the *Washington Blade*. A native of St. Louis, Lomax held a B.A. in social welfare and an M.A. in social science. From 1970 until he retired in 1989, Lomax was a property manager for the D.C. Department of Public and Assisted Housing. In 1974, Lomax founded the social club, Best of Washington, and served as its president until 1988. He also served as vice president of IMPACT-D.C. from 1989 until last year.

LARRY RILEY, best known as Frank Williams on the television series *Knots Landing*, died June 6 from complications due to AIDS. He was 39. A native of Memphis, Riley attended Memphis State and American University. He was also known for his portrayal of C. J. Memphis in the stage and film versions of *A Soldier's Story*. In 1989, Riley starred as Martin Luther King Jr. in *Unconquered*. In 1991, he won a Soap Opera Digest award for best supporting actor on *Knots Landing*. Riley is survived by his wife and other relatives.

LUE JAMES SINCLAIR, SR., 43, died from complications related to AIDS Nov. 30, 1991 according to *Update*. A Detroit native, Sinclair graduated from the State College of Beauty in Michigan as a cosmetologist. In 1978, he opened a salon in Pacific Beach, Calif. which he sold in 1986 to devote more time to art. Sinclair authored and illustrated children's books and did graphic design work for several major publishing houses. He is survived by his companion, Stanley Winard; son, Lue Sinclair, Jr.; his father and others.

SONIA SINGLETON, 37, died Feb. 19 from complications associated with AIDS according to the *Weekly News*. Singleton grew up in West Palm Beach where she was a high school honor student and won an athletic scholarship to Florida A&M University. She was a member of the Jackson Memorial Hospital Pediatric AIDS Health Care Project where she counseled young mothers and children with AIDS. Singleton appeared on *Geraldo* and, just two weeks before her death, received a humanitarian award from Share Your Gift.

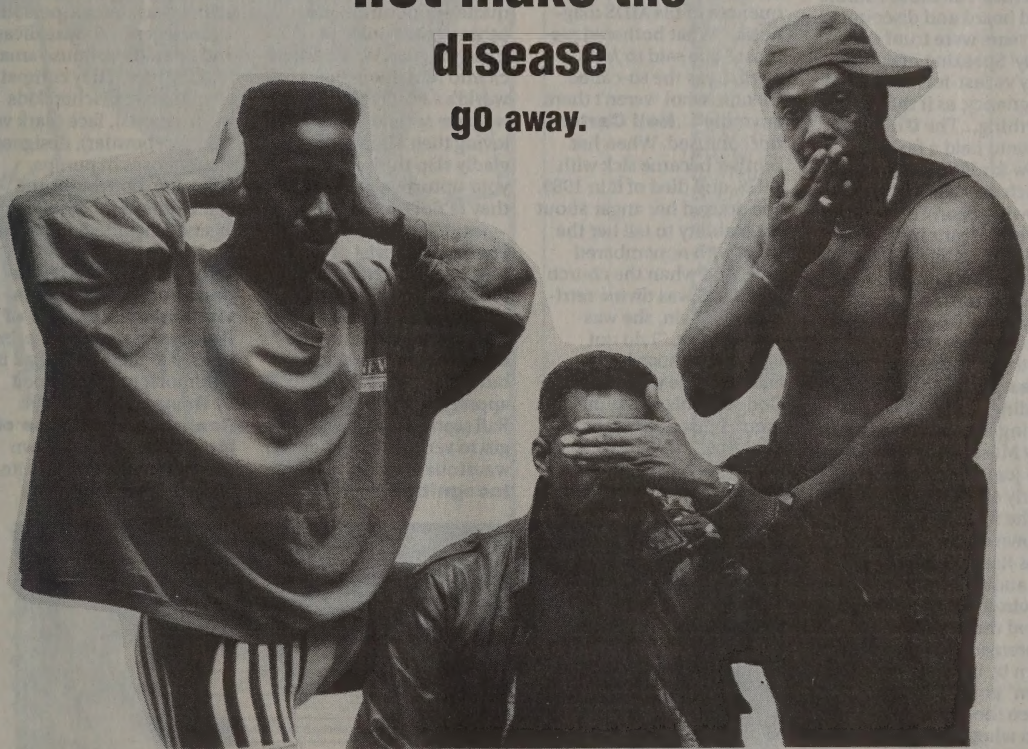
JAMES VIRGIL SMITH died March 16 from AIDS-related complications according to the *Washington Blade*. Smith, who was born in Chicago, received his bachelor's and master's degrees in education. He worked for the Chicago school system from 1972 to 1978 and later taught at San Diego State University. Smith moved to the District in 1980 and, most recently, was a D.C. Detention Facility instructor. He is survived by two sisters and four brothers.

CLEVELAND MICHAEL TORAIN, born Aug. 5, 1942 in Indianapolis, died Jan. 19 of AIDS-related illness according to *Your Paper*. Torain earned a bachelor's in engineering from the University of Lafayette and a master's from the University of Southern California. Torain was a board member of the Billy DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Community Center and a member of High Tech Gays, Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee and Black and White Men Together. He was also a counselor with the Bay Area Suicide Prevention Center.

DONALD W. WOODS, 34, died June 25 of complications related to AIDS. Woods, who was born in Queens, N.Y., earned a bachelor's from the New School for Social Research and did post-graduate study in arts administration. At the time of his death, he was executive director of AIDS Films. Before that, he was the public affairs director of the Brooklyn Children's Museum. Woods worked on Marlon Riggs's *Tongues Untied* and appeared in his *No Regrets*. He is survived by his mother, father and other relatives.

Obituaries are published free of charge. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include. Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.

Ignoring HIV/AIDS in our community will not make the disease go away.



Our best defense is to educate each other on ways to prevent HIV infection. The Minority AIDS Project offers AIDS 101 classes every second and fourth Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. We'll give you the basic information on HIV/AIDS prevention, and make sure you can hear it, see it and tell it before you leave. Give us a call at (213) 936-4949.

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BLK TEA

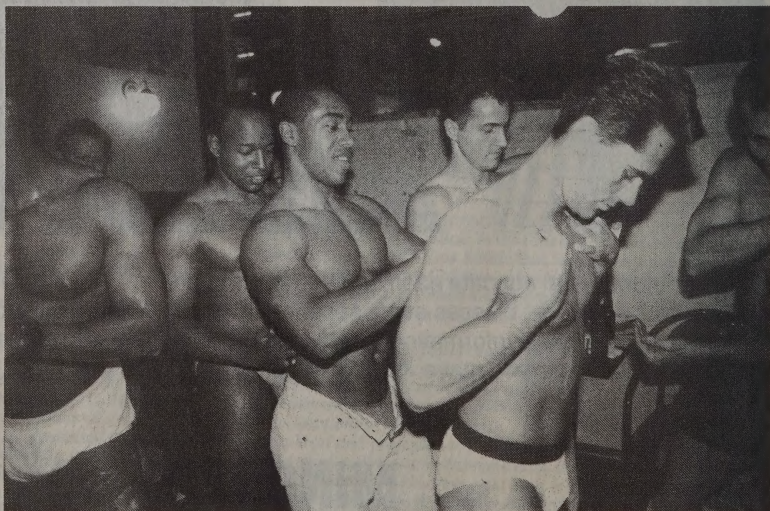
BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

We don't think the **Whitney Houston-Bobby Brown** marriage so much gets Whitney off the hook as it puts Bobby on it. You mean all those rumors we'd heard and discounted for years were true? Ooh, baby! Speaking of which, they've fast-forwarded the pregnancy, as if that *proves* anything... The **Go-Go** in Toronto held a fashion show for PWAs, photos of which appeared in *Xtra!* showing nearly a 50/50 split between stunning black and white bodymodels. We never knew Canada was so richly, hmm, *endowed!* Maybe we'll hop the next freedom train headin' north... Will the *real* **Diana Ross** please sit down! According to the *Advocate*, during her concert at Radio City Music Hall, Ms. Ross was joined onstage by an overly ambitious dragtwin. As the imposter was being thrown out by security, Miss Ross decided to put the audience to the test and inquired whether they preferred the sixties-Supremes-silky-straight wig worn by her rival or Diana's "own" lion-like mane. When the crowd responded with whoops in praise of Diana's Afrocentric hairfall, she graciously waved *wiedersehen* to the wannabe... Although present in Tinseltown while his book, *Brother to Brother* was being honored with a gay Lammie Award, **Essex Hemphill** was elsewhere occupied. How rude!... **Kevin Peter Hall**, who played monsterlike creatures in the movies *Predator* and *Harry and the Hendersons*, fell victim at

age 35 to a real monster, AIDS. His widow, **Alaina Reed-Hall** has denied long circulated rumors of her 7-foot-2 husband's gayness, but expressed bitterness about the consequences of his AIDS diagnosis, "What bothered me most," she said to *Jet* in April, "was the so-called friends (who) weren't there anymore"... **Nell Carter** is not confused. When her brother became sick with AIDS, and died of it in 1989, she doused her anger about his inability to tell her the truth with remembered love. And when the church said AIDS was divine retribution for sin, she was equally sure, "I do not agree with those born-again people who claim God sent this as a punishment. I just don't want to hear that"... Meanwhile America's mascot bigot, **Pat Buchanan**, turned

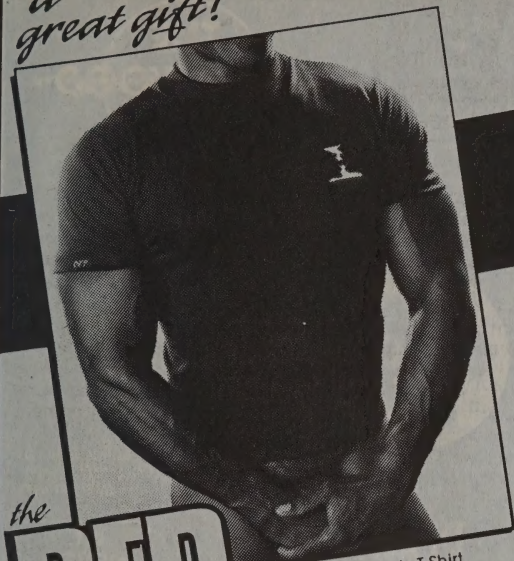
this summer's Republican Convention into a gay-bashing revival, declaring that homosex is anti-Christian. Well, if the Bible's your source, Patty-baby, why don't you heed that quote about turning the other cheek—instead of trying to goad WASP America into remaining the world's #1 bully? Incidentally, we have several friends into loving their enemies who'd gladly slap the hell out of your upturned cheeks. And they're not even into S & M—yet... Guess what Southern super-activist of ample means has recently discovered the joys of homeboys—from coast to coast?... We will no longer endure the accusation that we're too butch (*oh, thank-you!*) to appreciate the East Coast Ball scene. Hard as it is for a girl to venture out when her wardrobe is so *last summer*, **Incognita** of the **House**

of BLK was *there*, honey, and the Tea is as follows: **David**, father of the new **House of Xtravaganza Ultima** hosted the opening vogueball of the season. Runway categories included boydrag, female personation, legends (house divas) and open (non-house amateur) entries. They competed in realness (schoolkids vs. drugbrats), face (dark vs. light facepowder), designer labels, poses in pumps, vogueing, bodybuild and video lip-synch. Modeling legends included, **Octavia St. Laurent**, **Candy Labeja**, **Angle Xtravaganza** and **Avis Penda-vis**. Earlier the **House of Realness** awarded a prize of \$800 at their Black Ball in Baltimore, impressarioed by **Raymont** and **Okyo Realness**. The **House of Montana** did a midtown Manhattan fashion tribute in memory of femqueen



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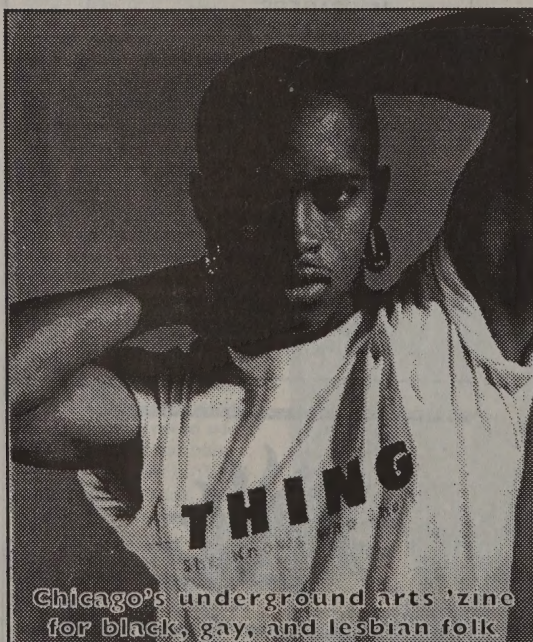
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Dee Montana, with a grand prize of \$1,000. Across town, the **House of Africa** held a tribal ceremony near Lincoln Square. Categories included Royal African Couple (but since at least one had to be a man, **Eddie and Arsenio** were ineligible) and '70's profiles (*Shaft* vs. *Superfly*). **Moi-Renée Africa** hosted, and the house gave their humanitarian award to (the late) **Craig Harris**, plus \$800 to the G.P. winner... **Johnny Mathis** was quoted in the Nashville *Query* commenting on his own lifestyle, "Homosexuality is a way of life I've grown accustomed to... Anything [so] controversial is boring." Not when you do it right, Johnnyboy... And this, too, from the Johnny-come-home column: Mathis has agreed to perform at AIDS Project Los Angeles's Commitment to Life Awards Show. Others include **Barbra Streisand**, **Liza Minelli**, **Billy Joel** and **Elton John**... "Your decision to close **A Different Light** bookstore in Silverlake is an affront to the multi-ethnic queer, dyke, fag and working class communities that have supported the bookstore since it opened in 1979." *NOT!* While we, like **Queer Nation's Luz Calvo** who wrote the above, mourn the loss of L.A.'s best-loved peruse-n-cruise institution, we also know that owners **Norman Laurila**, **George Leigh** and manager **Richard LaBonté** have been more out-of-pocket supportive and inclusive of queers of color than any proprietors we know in GayAnglo-America. Plus, they've promised that in their three remaining stores black visibility will not diminish—and we believe 'em... **Steven Corbin**, author, *BLK* coverboy and member of the **People of Color**

Caucus of ACT-UP/LA was *pissed*. The Caucus had been invited to hold their first fundraiser at the *nouveau Arena*, but disputes arose as to who were Caucus guests and who were Arena patrons, according to Steven, whereupon the Caucus's share of the gate was estimated at a paltry \$350, well below the break-even figure. Cooler heads have since prevailed at both club and Caucus so another fundraiser is in the offing... An altogether different crowd of folk hosted the L.A. publication party for tryintobe-trendy *Out* magazine at Arena in June—they might as well have called it "White Out," 'cuz it was definitely white boyz' night out. How many hipper ways can you think of to spend an evening than watching a bunch of (not so) pretty gray boys congratulating each other with flutes of champagne while looking down from the mezzanine at all the little people?... While the Black ACT-UPs are gettin' it together for their return, **Club 6655** has sprung to life at Arena billing itself as the "largest black gay club in Hollywood." We have yet to see but we give credit to Arena's owner, **Gene LaPietra**, for his continuing commitment to make his dance spaces welcome places for people of color—yellow, brown, black and lavender... **Carlton Youngblood's** birthday bash at the **Catch**—now that was a party! With **Marlon Riggs** and **Essex Hemphill** in town, there were *soirées* a-plenty, especially the one immortalized by Riggs on video and hosted by L.A.'s *l'enfant terrible* **Lyle Ashton Harris**. That reminds us—if **Charles Stewart** wanted to keep his 40th birthday a secret (shh!), he shouldn't have let his homies (**D Cannon**, **Gil Gerald**,

Phill Wilson, etc.) throw him that wild leather party in the backroom at Casita Del Campo. And is it true things got even wilder after they stumbled across the street to Cuffs?... One thing folks *have* noticed is how "dark" all the clubs have turned since the uprising. Guess we is no longer trendy, huh? Lot more parking spaces at the Catch, for sure. Good riddance, say a lot of folks, but remember, there has probably never been a more important time to patronize black lesbian and gay owned businesses: their survival depends upon your support!... If you aren't part of the solution, you're part of the problem, as they used to say in the '60s. Yes, girlfriend, some of us *do* remember the '60s and couldn't help feeling that the L.A. cataclysm was a sad case of *déjà vu*—will folks never learn? Fortunately, a couple dozen L.A. writers and performers got together and *did* something: *The Fire This Time*, to benefit riot relief efforts. The June 16 benefit at Celebration Theatre included **Ayofemi Folayan**, **Col-**

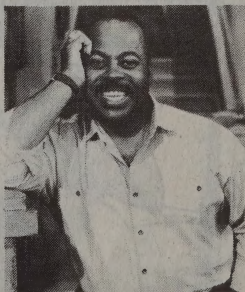
lette Jackson, **Mark Haile**, **Randy Boyd** and **Ric Parish**. The First A.M.E. Church Relief Fund and the Aquarian Bookstore received cash and food donations from the evening's performances, which centered on themes inspired by the uprising... **Vanzell** served Dutch courage, **Yolanda** played songs to strip by and **Big Boss Renéé** ordered everybody to drop their pants at **Pangea's** Underwear Party where women-lovin' women compared panty-hose—and their contents... **Pomo Afro Homos** summered onstage in London, complaining all the while about the *trade deficit*. Listen up, Homos: the smart investor only opens wide his vault if he feels a *bull* market cumbering his way—Lawd knows these days England is full of nothing but dowdy queens and horney princesses... Our D.C. scouts tell us that the town on the Potomoc is becoming known as the black gay party capitol of the United States. There are very few cities where members of the community can party with their own in a



"Norman. Is that you?"

bers of the community can party with their own in a different place every night of the week. But once official Washington goes to bed, the boys and girls come out to play. On Sunday they play at **Tracks** (or **Club T**, if you wish to demure.) On Monday, the boys pack the **Brass Rail** to see what the boys are packing in the exotic dance lineup. Talent of a different nature is on tap Tuesdays at the **Bachelor Mill**, which hosts an amateur variety show. Capitalist competition's wonderful, 'cuz **Encore** has to share the midweek spotlight with the (newly black-owned) **Hill Haven**, which tries harder—to put the men (or parts thereof) right in your face. Thursday has always been the start of the weekend in the District (First Ladies are entitled to step ahead, babe), and the crowd returns to the Mill for the “Parade of the Banges.” So by Friday, it's time to see more skin. Back to the Brass Rail which has a permanent display of some of the biggest you-know-whats on the East Coast. On Saturday, it's a D.C. go-go house party at the **Delta**, where the music smokes and the men steam ...L.A.'s most infamous black gay cruising spot may be passé if some of the local yokels get their way. Any night of the week an endless stream of cars can be seen cruising a certain eight-block stretch of **Leimert Park**. Well, the Leimert Park Residence Association has been looking into converting the area into a limited-access, gated community. They say such a conversion would help control robberies, muggings and drug-trafficking. But we say all they really wanna control is the cruising...Our spy in Manhattan, on the other hand, tells us that all is well in **Battery**

Park. Take the 4 or 5 train to Bowling Green, or the 1 train to South Ferry. But be careful of hustlers and undercover cops, and also be careful to wear a you-know-what on your you-know-what. If you feel more comfortable playing indoor sports, **Mt. Morris** at 125th and Madison Ave. still seethes with hot black and brown men. Be sure to wear shoes, though. The floor isn't Mt. Morris's finest feature. Horny Men of African Descent can pretty much forget the other New York area baths except for the **Northern Sauna** in Flushing which attracts a mixed clientele...You can also find a mixed crowd at the **Nitespot** in Jamestown if you find yourself in upstate New York. The atmosphere is earthy, friendly and real. They recently had a wet T-shirt contest and sometimes sponsor beach parties. Actually, Jamestown, which is within driving distance of Buffalo, is a good place to be gay, harboring several straight, but gay-friendly bars...Going to Detroit? If you're male, say hello to **Marshal**, one of the bartenders at **Zipperz**. If you're female, check out **Sarena N'Effect Tyler**, the D.J. at **Club Splash**... **Reginald VelJohnson**, the patriarch on TV's *Family Matters*, is leaving his



Brother Reggie

Hollywood condo for a \$700,000 ranch-style haci-

enda in Laurel Canyon. The new spread, built in the '50s, has three master suites, a guest house and, according to Reggie, “a pool like a big kidney bean.” The 40-year-old bachelor will live there with his pug dog, two cats and fan mail...Her publicist says, “she prefers to stay away from those issues.”



Sister Souljah

Barbara Bush commenting about her husband's love affairs, right? Wrong! **Sister Souljah**—who seemed to be everywhere with a ready quote during the L.A. revolt—pleading the fifth when her views on discrimination against black lesbians and gays were solicited...Word has it that black gay filmmaker **Isaac Julien** of *Looking for Langston* and *Young Soul Rebels* fame, is trying to secure the rights to **James Baldwin's Giovanni's Room**...And speaking of Baldwin, part of his **FBI** file was printed in the March *Esquire* as part of a report by Natalie Robins called “The Secret War

Against American Writers.” One section reads, “Isn't Baldwin a well-known pervert?” Another, “While it is not possible to state that he is a pervert, he has expressed a sympathetic viewpoint about homosexuality on several occasions, and a very definite hostility toward the revulsion of the American public regarding it”...**Quincy Jones** has picked white and openly gay **Jonathan Van Meter** to edit his new Time-Warner-backed rap magazine, *Vibe*. Everyone seems to think Jonathan, who has no experience in the hip hop scene, is perfect for the job. He's one helluva editor—we hope...Rumors still swirl around **Sylvester Turner**, who ran unsuccessfully for Houston mayor last year. **Dwight Thomas**, his alleged other half, is routinely referred to in the *Houston Chronicle* as Turner's “housemate” and “longtime friend.” Go figure...**Club Promoter Page Model** of *The Box* fame in San Francisco has opened a new club in Berkeley. Called **The Dance Factory**, this one's for fellas as well as ladies, and is, of course, multicultural...Down the way in Oakland, the **Bench and Bar** is trying to solidify its black and white men together image with flyers featuring—what else—black and white men together...Congratulations to **Lowanda** and **Liz** who exchanged marriage vows in a July 17 ceremony at Chicago's 7313 Club...Finally, some bad news. **Bob Mizer**, one of the pioneers of what was then known as male physique photography has died. In an era when most models used were white men, Bob focused his lens on a significant number of brothers as well...Til next time, remember: when sipping black tea, pinkies aloft!

UCLA CARE CLINIC

UCLA Center for
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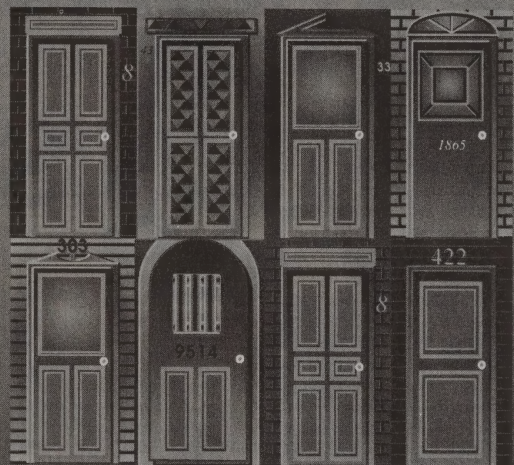
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- Internal Medicine
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- Oral Medicine
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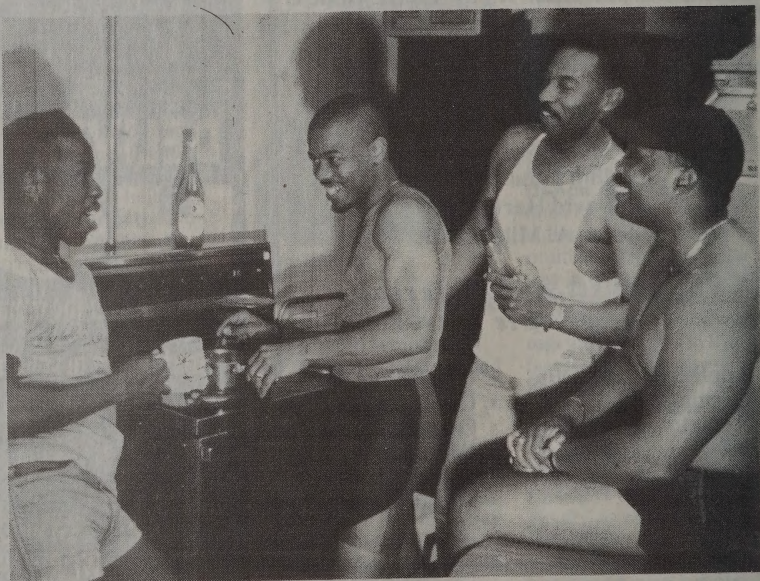
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*Hey Brothers,
we have a lot to talk about...*

THE BLACK GAY MEN'S RAP

*Topics
of
interest
to
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BLK LIST

BARS, BATHS AND CLUBS

Key:

- * Somewhat black
- ** Significantly black
- *** Mostly black
- **** All black
- † Mixed gay and straight

FRANCE

BH***, 7 Rue du Roule Metro, Chatelet, Paris. Parisean, African and Caribbean blacks. Blackest on Sunday. Le Tour de Nesle****, near BH, Paris. African and Caribbean blacks.

GERMANY

Construction Five*, Alte Gasse 5, Frankfurt. ☎69-29-13-56. Popular with U.S. military.

ALABAMA

Club 21*, 117½ - 21st St. N., Birmingham, AL 35210, 205-322-0469.

CALIFORNIA

Annex**, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-671-7323.
Basgo's*, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-664-1929.
Bella Napoli***, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612, 510-893-5552.
Bench & Bar*, 120 - 11th St., Oakland, CA 94607, 510-444-2266.
Box**, 628 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94117, 415-931-1914.
Brass Rail*, 3796 Fifth Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, 619-298-2233.
Cabel's Reef**, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612, 510-451-3777.
Caper Room***, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-677-0403.
Catch One***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159.
Cottage***†, 5050 W. Pico

Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-935-5540.
Cover Girl Club***†, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, 213-870-1595.
Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)
Eagle*, 7864 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-654-3252. Blackest on Monday.
Eagle Creek Saloon***, 1884 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94112, 415-863-3323.
Griff's*, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-660-0889.
Horizon***, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-737-9678.
Jewel's Room***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159.
Midtowne Spa**, 615 S. Kohler St., Los Angeles, CA 90021, 213-680-1838. Bathroom.
Peacock Alley**, 1271 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, 619-295-5696.
Pendulum**, 4146 - 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-863-4441.
Rage*, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, 213-652-7055.
Steamworks*, 2110 - 5th St., Berkeley, CA 94710, 415-845-8992. Bathroom.
Study***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-464-9551.
Whistle Stop****, 2236 Fern St., San Diego, CA 92104, 619-284-2845. Black on Saturdays only.
White Horse Inn*, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609, 510-652-3820.

COLORADO

Club Raven***, 2217 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205, 303-297-1741.
Taste*, 2217 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205, 303-296-1741.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

Bachelor's Mill****, 1104 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-1931.
Back Door Pub****, 1104 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-546-5979.
Brass Rail****, 476 K St.,

N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
Delta Elite****, 3734 - 10th St., N.E., Washington, DC 20017, 202-832-9839. Gay on Friday and Sunday.
Encore Social Club****, 1900 Fenwick St., N.E., Washington, DC 20002, 202-526-8655.
Fraternity House*, 2122 P St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, 202-223-4917. Blackest downstairs.
Hill Haven**, 516 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-543-4242.
Mr. P's*, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037, 202-293-9009.
Nob Hill****, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington, DC 20010, 202-797-1101.
Phase One****, 525 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-6831.
Tracks****, 1111 - 1st St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-488-3320. Blackest on Sunday.

FLORIDA

Club Twenty-One***, 2920 S.W. 30th Ave., Hallandale, FL 33009. Blackest on Thursday.
Jasmine***, 2041 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33137, 305-573-7725. Friday-Sunday. Women.
Red Garter**, 1 W. Main St., Pensacola, FL 32501, 904-432-9188.
Sugar's***, 13705 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach, FL 33181, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.
Third Dimension**, 711 Edison Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32204, 904-353-6316.
Waterfront***, 3615 N.W. South River Dr., Miami, FL 33142, 305-635-5500. Blackest on Tuesday.

GEORGIA

Armory*, 836 Juniper, Atlanta, GA 30309, 404-881-9280.
The Cove*, 586 Worcester, Atlanta, GA 30306, 404-875-2477.
Loretta's****, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30308, 404-874-8125.
Pear Garden**, 111 Luckie St., Atlanta, GA 30303, 404-

659-4055.
Traxx***, 306 Luckie St., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30313, 404-681-5033. Gay on Friday and Saturday. Straight on Thursday.

ILLINOIS

Clubhouse****, 440 N. Halstead St., Chicago, IL 60622, 312-421-3588.
Deeks**, 3401 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657, 312-549-DEEK.
Faces***, 130 N. 4th St., East St. Louis, IL 62201, 618-271-7410.
Henry's Palace****, 936 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60651.
Jeffrey Pub****, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649, 312-363-8555.
Loading Dock**, 3702 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60613, 312-929-6108.
Man's Country**, 5017 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 60651, 312-878-2069. Bathroom.
Martin's Den****, 5550 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60621, 312-363-9470.
New 411 Club****†, 411 E. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-684-9387. Days straight, nights gay.
Roscoe**, 3356 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60657, 312-281-3355.
Stop and Drink****, 742 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60610.

KANSAS

Our Fantasy*, 3201 S. Hillside, Wichita, KS 67216, 316-682-5494.

LOUISIANA

Bourbon Pub/Parade Disco*, 801 Bourbon, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-529-2107.
Club Connections*, 913 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-822-4402.
Golden Lantern**, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-523-6300.
Wolffendale's****, 834 N. Rampart, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-524-5749.

MARYLAND

Allegro**, 1101 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-837-3906.
Gallery*, 1735 Maryland

Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-539-6965.
Hippo*, 1 W. Eager St., Baltimore, MD 21202, 301-576-0018. Blackest on Thursday. Our Place West****, 608 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-837-7637.
Scandal's Downtown*, 610 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-547-8977.
Sportsman Bar****, 412 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-727-9620, 301-727-8935.
Tikki's***, 616 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-539-9002. Women's bar.

MICHIGAN

Backstage*, 17630 Woodward N., Detroit, MI 48203, 313-869-3988.
Backstreet*, 15606 Joy Rd., Detroit, MI 48228, 313-272-8959.
Bookies***, 18952 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-368-0300.
Continental****, 156 Monroe, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-964-9706.
Copa*, 565 S. Saginaw, Flint, MI 48502, 313-235-2500.
Glass House***, 1246 Strathcona Dr., Detroit, MI 48203-1460, 313-342-4941.
Heaven***, 19106 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48203, 313-368-5497.
Menjos*, 928 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48203, 313-863-3934.
R and R Saloon**, 6918 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48210, 313-849-2751.
Railroad Crossing*, 6640 E. 8 Mile, Detroit, MI 48234, 313-891-1020.
Shopper's Lounge****, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-961-1916.
TNT Health Club**, 13333 W. 8 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48235, 313-341-5322. Bathroom.

MISSISSIPPI

Interchange**, 200 N. Mill St., Jackson, MS 39201, 601-353-2041.

MISSOURI

Magnolia's Restaurant and Bar*, 5 S. Vandeventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-6500.

Come to a party.
Strip to your underwear.
Meet the brothers.
Watch videos.
Eat something
Drink something.
Talk it up.
Walk around.
Watch.

Participate.

Be sensual.

Be creative.

But not too creative.

Use your hands.

Stick to the front.

Leave the behind alone.

Rub.

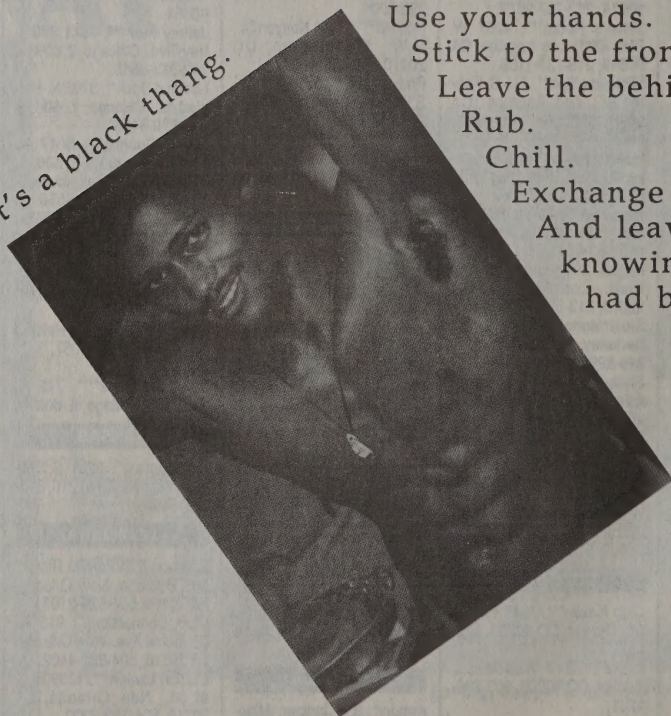
Chill.

Exchange numbers.

And leave

knowing you
had been safe.

It's a black thang.



The next Black Jack Party is Friday, November 6, 1992.
For membership info and application, write Black Jack,
Box 83515, Los Angeles, CA 90083 or call 310-338-1516.

Nites II*, 212 N. Vanderventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-3123.

NEW JERSEY

First Choice**, 533 Ferry St., Newark, NJ 07105, 201-465-1944.

Murphy's**, 59 Edison St., Newark, NJ 07102, 201-622-9176.

Rascals*, 611 Hick St., Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

NEW YORK

Clit Club**, 101 Avenue A, New York, NY. Tuesdays only.

Clit Club**, 432 W. 14th St., New York, NY, 212-406-1114. Fridays only.

Hatfield's*, 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, NY 11415, 718-261-8484.

Hideaway*, 87-36 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432, 718-657-4585.

Kellers****, 384 West St., New York, NY 10014, 212-243-1907.

Monster**, 80 Grove St., New York, NY 10014, 212-924-3558.

Mt. Morris Baths**, 1944 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035, 212-534-9004. Bathhouse.

Nite Spot**, 201 Windsor, Jamestown, NY 14701; Box 3411, Jamestown, NY 14702, 716-483-3456.

Octagon**, 555 W. 33rd St., New York, NY 10001, 212-947-0400.

Rage**, 369 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206, 518-432-1108.

Red Zone**, 20-18 45th St., Astoria, NY 11105-1230.

Tunnel Bar**, 116 First Ave., New York, NY 10009, 212-777-9232.

Two Potato**, 143 Christopher St., New York, NY 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

OHIO

Carl's Place**, 303 W. 5th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-621-5021.

Flex Complex*, 1293 W. 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44113, 216-696-0595. Bathhouse.

Porky's*, 1946 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114, 216-861-1299.

PENNSYLVANIA

BJP**, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-747-4953.

Brandy's Bistro*, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-747-4958. Club Body Center, 120 S. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Penny's Playhouse, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-471-5778.

Stars**, 1302-04 Drury St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Studio 124**, 124 N. 4th St. Reading, PA 19601, 215-373-9079.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Candy Shop**, 1903 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29204.

New Attitude**, 706 W. Washington St., Greenville, SC 29601, 803-233-1387.

TENNESSEE

Apartment****, 343 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38103, 901-525-9491.

Family Affair**, 875 Vance Ave., Memphis, TN 38126, 901-527-0672.

TEXAS

Crew*, 309 W. Market St., San Antonio, TX 78205, 512-223-0333.

Crossing*, 611 Red River, Austin, TX 78701, 512-476-3611.

Mother's**, 402 Lovett St., Houston, TX 77006, 713-520-7935.

Paper Moon*, 1430 N. Main, San Antonio, TX 78212, 512-225-7330.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

King Frederick Hotel, 127 Smithfield Rd., Box 1908, Frederiksted, St. Croix, VI 00841-1908, 800-524-2018, 809-772-1205.

Walter's Living Room, Raader's Gade, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00802.

WISCONSIN

Club 219**, 219 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204, 414-271-3732.

Keele Ave. Station****, 2819A N. Palmer St., Milwaukee, WI 53212-2435.

Molly & Oscar's**, 405 Tower Ave., Superior, WI 54836.

Phoenix**, 235 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204, 414-278-9727.

Tina's RTI****, 634 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-562-2511.

ORGANIZATIONS

BRAZIL

Grupo Gay da Bahia, Caxia Postal 2552, 40.020 Salvador, Bahia.

CANADA

Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, 597 Parliament St. #103, Toronto, ON M4X 1W3 ☎ 416-926-0122.

Black Bilingual, Gay and Lesbian AIDS Discussion, Box 55, Sta. F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2L4 ☎ 416-926-0063.

ENGLAND

African/Caribbean Black Lesbian Group, Hackney Women's Centre, 20 Dalston Lane, London E8 ☎ 071-254-2980.

Birmingham Black Lesbian and Gay Group, London ☎ 021-622-7351.

Birmingham Black Lesbian Group, Birmingham Women's Advice and Information Centre, Devonshire House, High St., Digbeth, Birmingham B12 0LP ☎ 021-773-6952.

Black Communities AIDS Team, Leeds City Council, Health Unit, Selectapost 14, 2nd Fl. Annexe, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 3AQ ☎ 053-462431.

Black HIV/AIDS Forum, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE ☎ 053-385-5955.

Black HIV/AIDS Forum, AIDS Unit #6003, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2JB. Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project, Tottenham Town Hall, Annexe B, Town Hall Approach Rd., London N15 4RX ☎ 081-885-3543.

Blackliners, Box 74, London SW12 9JY ☎ 071-673-1695.

Camden Black Lesbian Group, 54-56 Phoenix Rd., London NW1 ☎ 071-383-5405.

City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX ☎ 01-837-6050.

Fusion, London Lesbian and Gay Centre, ☎ 071-358-1486.

Haringey Black Action, BM 4390, London WC1N 3XX. Leicester Black Lesbian and Gay Group, Michael Wood Centre, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE ☎ 053-355-9995.

Lesbian and Gay Black

Group, 40 Theobalds Rd., London WC1 ☎ 01-678-6606. Let's Rap, c/o Dennis Carney, 47d Lom Rd., London SW9 0AB ☎ 071-737-3881.

Light Skinned and Mixed Race Black Lesbian Group, London ☎ 01-885-3543.

Manchester Black Lesbian and Gay Group, Box 153, Manchester M60 1LP.

Nottingham Black Lesbian Group, Nottingham Lesbian Centre, 30 Chaucer St., Nottingham NG5 1LP ☎ 060-241-1475.

Onyx, 86 Caledonian Rd., London N1, England. ☎ 01-837-3337 or 071-837-2783.

Young Black Lesbian Group, Lewisham Young Women's Project, 308 Brownhill Rd., Lewisham ☎ 081-698-6675.

Young Black Zanis, Camden Lesbian Centre, 52-54 Phoenix Rd., London NW1 ☎ 071-383-5405.

Zamimass, Box 726, Shop 8 Taplow, Thurlow St., London SE17.

GHANA

Club De Le Gayes, c/o Enos Jeffreys, Bubuashie-Atico, Box 3879, Accra ☎ 224-412.

Gay Liberation Group of Nkawkaw, c/o Festus Owusu Sekyere, Box 282, Nkawkaw/E/R

KENYA

Know AIDS Society, Box 7483, Nairobi, Kenya.

NIGERIA

Gentlemen Alliance, Box 52686, Falomo, Lagos, Nigeria.

SOUTH AFRICA

Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand, Box 23297, Joubert Park, Johannesburg 2044 ☎ 837-6413, 339-7762 fax.

Organization of Lesbians and Gay Activists, Box 7315, Roggebaai 8012, Cape Town.

Society for Homosexuals on Campus, Box 23017, Joubert Park 2044, Johannesburg.

SWEDEN

Africa Information Pool, RFSL, c/o Alfred Machela, Box 350, S-101 24, Stockholm.

ZIMBABWE

Gays and Lesbians of Zimba-

bwe, Box UA 425, Union Ave., Harare.

CALIFORNIA

Adult Children of Alcoholics, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-734-8849.

African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance, 6709 La Tijera Blvd. #484, Los Angeles, CA 90045, 310-641-5643.

African-American Lesbians 40+, 415-465-2573.

African-American Men's Health Project, 74 New Montgomery St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94105, 415-597-9137.

Afro-Centric Support Group, San Diego, 619-263-8196. HIV positive support group.

Al-Anon for Black Gay and Lesbians, 1268 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-995-2581.

Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-936-4949.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Women's Self Acceptance, Crenshaw Alano Club, 4323 Leimert Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008.

Beyond the Bars, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-936-4949.

Bisexuals of Color Caucus, San Francisco, CA, 415-821-3534.

Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716.

Black and White Men Together/San Diego, 2261 Lincoln Ave. #1990, San Diego, CA 92104, 619-528-1815.

Black and White Men Together/San Francisco, 2261 Market St. #506, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-931-BWMT.

Black Coalition on AIDS, 726 Broderick St., San Francisco, CA 94117, 415-931-3031, 415-553-8197.

Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563, 213-206-5162.

Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-666-5495.

Black and Gay for Life, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233.

Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA

90069, 213-274-3398.
Black Gay Men's Rap Group,
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los
Angeles, CA 90016, 213-274-
3398.

Black Lesbian Support
Group, 415-839-3302, 415-
653-5732.

Black Lesbians Support
Group at Connexus, 1017 N.
La Cienega Blvd., #110, W.
Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-
652-3894.

Black Lesbians Under 25,
415-864-0876.

Black Men's Support Group,
Berkeley, CA, 415-841-6224.

Black Men's Xchange, Box
8216, Inglewood, CA 90308,
213-281-7742.

Black Men's Xchange, Box
32005, Oakland, CA 94604-
2005, 510-839-9318.

Black Men's Xchange, Sacra-
mento, 916-487-0439.

Black Men's Xchange, San
Francisco, 415-474-8303.

Cocaine Anonymous, Jewel's
Catch One, 4067 W. Pico
Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
90019, 213-734-8849.

Early Advocacy and Care for
HIV, 944 Market St. #210,
San Francisco, CA 94102-
4010, 415-403-3800.

Gentlemen Concerned, Box
11485, Glendale, CA 91226-
7485.

HIV Survival Group for Peo-
ple of Color, IKUNU Program,
220 N. Euclid Ave. #130, San
Diego, CA 92114, 619-527-
2477.

Kupona Network, 3220 Sacra-
mento St., Berkeley, CA

94702, 415-665-2830.
Ladies Concerned, Box
37036, Los Angeles, CA
90037.

Lapis/Alcoholism Center for
Women, 1147 S. Alvarado
St., Los Angeles, CA 90006,
213-381-7805.

Lesbians and Gays of African
Descent, Box 620448, San
Diego, CA 92162, 619-496-
3372.

Lesbians and Gays of African
Descent for Democratic Ac-
tion, Box 584 Castro St.
#130, San Francisco, CA
94114.

Lesbians of Color Against
Abuse, 415-621-8684.

Lesbians of Color Support
Group, Pacific Center, 2712
Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, CA
94705, 415-548-8283.

Los Angeles Black Lesbians
and Gays, 213-758-7018.

Makeda, Box 78785, Los An-
geles, CA 90016, 213-935-
4105.

Men of All Colors Together/
Greater Bay Area, Box 811,
Oakland, CA 94604, 510-
261-7922.

Minority AIDS Project, 5149
W. Jefferson Blvd., Los An-
geles, CA 90016, 213-936-
4949.

Multicultural Alliances for Pre-
vention of AIDS, 6025 Third
St., San Francisco, CA
94124, 415-822-7500.

Multicultural Lesbian Writers
Group, San Francisco, CA,
415-995-2730.

Multicultural Prevention Re-
source Center, 1540 Market

St., San Francisco, CA
94102, 415-861-2142.

National Task Force on AIDS
Prevention of the National
Association of Black and
White Men Together, 631
O'Farrell St., San Francisco,
CA 94109, 415-749-6700.
Nia Collective, Box 20835,
Oakland, CA 94620.

People of Color AIDS Surviv-
al Effort, 3177 Ocean View
Blvd., San Diego, CA 92113,
619-231-9300.

Project WARN, 5601 W.
Slauson Ave. #200, Culver
City, CA 90230, 213-641-
7795.

Racism and Homophobia in
the Media Project, 30 Gar-
denside #6, San Francisco,
CA 94131, 415-641-5706.

Rafiki Services Project, Box
11908, San Francisco, CA
94103, 415-553-8806.

Rap of Lyff, 5149 W. Jeffer-
son Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
90016, 213-465-1193.

Regional Black Lesbian Con-
ference Planning Committee,
213-753-4475.

Rue's House, Box 37036, Los
Angeles, CA 90037, 213-295-
4030.

Strong Tower Emmanuel
Praise Center, Box 3102,
Berkeley, CA 94703, 510-
649-7469, 510-649-1177.

Third World AIDS Advisory
Task Force, Box 6182, San
Francisco, CA 94101, 415-
864-4376.

United Colors of Queer Na-
tion, San Francisco, 415-821-
6108, 415-985-7141.

United Lesbi-
ans of African
Heritage, 1626
N. Wilcox St.
#190, Los
Angeles, CA
90028, 213-
960-5051.

Unity Fellow-
ship Church,
5149 W. Jeffer-
son Blvd.,
Los Angeles,
CA 90016,
213-936-4948.

Women of
Color Project,
1663 Mission
St. #550, San
Francisco, CA
94103, 415-
621-0505.

X-Calibre
Club, 9001
Keith Ave., W.
Hollywood, CA
90069, 213-
274-6272.

Z and Z Productions, 4153
Garden Ave., Los Angeles,
CA 90039.

COLORADO

African-American Gay Men's
Group, Gay and Lesbian
Community Center of Colora-
do, 1245 E. Colfax #319,
Denver, CO 80218, 303-831-
6268.

B-A-Pal, 1525 Josephine St.,
Denver, CO 80206, 303-388-
5862.

Black Gays and Lesbians
United Against AIDS, 2739
Milwaukee St., Denver, CO
80205, 303-320-4602.

Black Gays and Lesbians
United Against AIDS, Box
18974, Denver, CO 80218,
303-399-0329.

Black Men's Xchange, 1512
E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO
80218, 303-832-2523.

CONNECTICUT

Lesbians of Color, Yale
Women's Center, 198 Elm
St., New Haven, CT 06520,
203-624-8727.

Men of All Colors Together/
Connecticut, Box 2735, Hart-
ford, CT 06146-2735, 203-
346-0199 (Mike, in Hartford),
203-497-8538 (Stevie, in New
Haven).

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

Best Friends, 202-953-0681.
Bi Black Females, Box
90378, Washington, DC
20005, 202-715-6148.

Black and White Men Togeth-
er/DC, Box 73111, Washing-
ton, DC 20056-3111, 202-
452-9173.

Black Lesbian Support
Group, 202-797-3500.
Community HIV/AIDS Pre-
vention Services, 703-549-
4232.

D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbi-
ans and Gay Men, Box
21543, Washington, DC
20009, 202-488-4771.

D.C. White Lesbians Against
Racism Everywhere, 202-
332-7338, 202-332-0202.

Faith Temple, 1313 New York
Ave., N.W., Washington, DC
20005, 202-544-2766.

HIV Support Group for Afri-
can/American Men and Wom-
en, Whitman-Walker Clinic,
1407 S St., N.W., Washing-
ton, DC 20007, 202-797-
3591.

Impact/DC, 300 I St., N.E.
#300, Washington, DC
20002, 202-546-7228.

Inner City AIDS Network, 912

Third St., Washington, DC
20001-2511, 202-789-ICAN.
Intergroup Minority Project:
AIDS Consortium and Trust
(IMPACT), 300 I St., N.E.
#301, Washington, DC
20002, 202-55-IMPACT.

National Coalition for Black
Lesbians and Gays, Box
19248, Washington, DC
20036-0248, 202-389-1094.

National Minority AIDS Coun-
cil, 300 I St., N.E. #400,
Washington, DC 20012, 202-
544-1076.

FLORIDA

Associates, Box 472382, Mi-
ami, FL 33247.

Bay Area Men of All Colors
Together/Tampa, Box 2911,
Tampa, FL 33601.

Black and White Men Togeth-
er/Tallahassee/Big Bend, Box
926, Tallahassee, FL 32302-
0926, 904-681-9499.

Black Support Group, Jack-
sonville, FL, 904-630-3237.

D-Rich Boiz, Box 695004,
Miami, FL 33269.

Family, Box 552552, Miami,
FL 33055, 305-769-3500.

GEORGIA

AIDS Education Services for
Minorities, Box 87277, Atlan-
ta, GA 30337, 404-762-6002.

African American Lesbian
and Gay Alliance, 878
Peachtree St., N.W. #109,
Atlanta, GA 30309, 404-239-
8184.

Black and White Men Togeth-
er/Atlanta, Box 1334, Atlanta,
GA 30301-1334, 404-892-
2968.

Black Men's Xchange, 404-
627-5148.

Nightlife, 404-209-8037.

Zami, 404-607-7145, 404-
768-4979.

ILLINOIS

Essentia, Box 476650, Chica-
go, IL 60647-6650.

Men of All Colors Together/
Chicago, 4753 N. Broadway
#1200, Chicago, IL 60640-
4907, 312-334-2012.

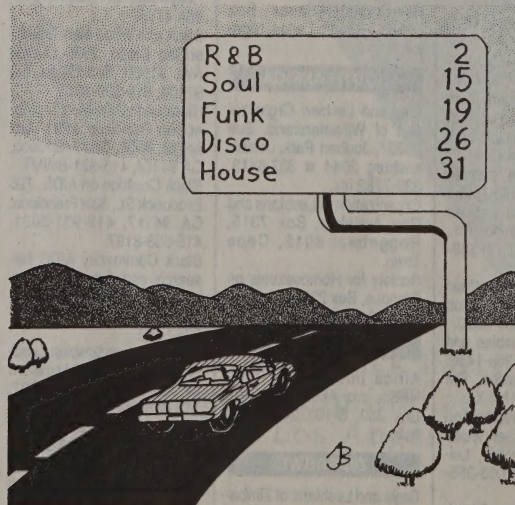
Brothers Projects, 6540 S.
Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL
60637, 312-667-8313.

Chicago Lesbians Emerging
Against Racism, 3712 N.
Broadway #202, Chicago, IL
60613.

Image Plus, 5354 N. Ken-
more St., Chicago, IL 60640.

Kupona Network, 4611 S.
Ellis, Chicago, IL 60653, 312-
536-3000.

National Association of Black



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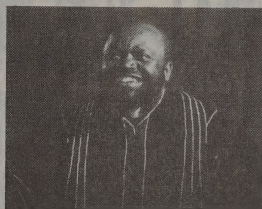
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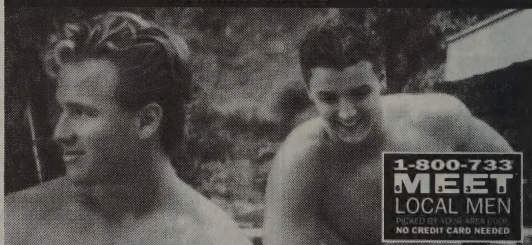
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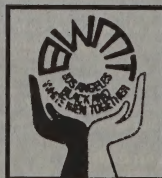
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and White Men Together, 4753 N. Broadway #1200, Chicago, IL 60640-4907, 312-907-0400, 800-NA4-BWMT.

INDIANA

Black and White Men Together/Indianapolis, Box 88784, Indianapolis, IN 46208, 317-271-9446.

KANSAS

Topeka Coalition, 2641 S.E. 11th St., Topeka, KS 66607.

KENTUCKY

Black and White Men Together/Louisville, Box 1838, Louisville, KY 40201, 502-772-3025.

MARYLAND

Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.

Black and White Men Together/Baltimore, Box 22472, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-225-9386, 301-542-3317.

Black Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men, 3835 Reisters-town Rd., Baltimore, MD 21218, 301-542-6218 (Goldie), 301-669-4192 (Irv).

Black Gay Community Center of Baltimore, 301-539-0942. Blacks United for Gay and Lesbian Equality (BUGLE), Box 13429, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-547-1829.

MASSACHUSETTS

Descolores, 413-549-0867, 413-584-7280.

Men of All Colors Together/Boston, c/o GCN Box 1, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Multicultural AIDS Coalition, 566 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA 02118, 617-536-8610. Revolutionary Sisters of Color, Box 2798, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

MICHIGAN

Black and White Men Together/Detroit, Box 248831, Detroit, MI 48224-8831, 313-864-1154.

Black Men's Xchange, 313-361-6037.

Essence of Choice, Box 23367, Detroit, MI 48232.

Full Truth Faith Fellowship Church, 19700 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48203-1528, 313-366-2400.

James Baldwin-Pat Parker

Society, 13412 Wilshire Dr., Detroit, MI 48213.

Lesbians and Gays Against Racism, 312-744-4152.

Project: Survival, 3336 Glynn, Detroit, MI 48206, 313-867-2725.

MINNESOTA

Black Men's Xchange, 612-522-3184.

Women of Color Stir Fry, 612-729-1360.

MISSOURI

Black and White Men Together/Kansas City, Box 412432, Kansas City, MO 64141, 816-931-4470.

Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS, Box 150531, St. Louis, MO 63115, 314-367-0191.

Lesbians and Gays of Color, c/o Phoenix Books, 317 Westport Rd., Kansas City, MO 64111-2241, 816-931-6822.

NEBRASKA

People of All Colors Together/Omaha, 2211 Jones St. #1F, Omaha, NE 68102.

NEW JERSEY

People of All Colors Rap Group, Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, NJ 07111.

NEW YORK

African American Wimmin United for Societal Change, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-620-7310.

Black Lesbian, 2130 First Ave. #2601, New York, NY 10029, 212-565-8365.

Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood, Box 1244, Bronx, NY 10462, 212-829-9817, 212-409-1131.

Brooklyn Lesbians Together, 118-636-5297.

Brooklyn Task Force on AIDS, 718-596-4781.

Caribbean Women's Health Association, 244 Utica Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11213, 718-826-2942.

Club F, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-491-7228.

Committee on the Visibility of Other Black Women, 2130 First Ave., New York, NY 10029, 718-565-8365.

Gay African Americans of Westchester, 172 Ravine

Ave. #3D, Yonkers, NY 10701-1843, 914-376-0727.

Gay, Bisexual, Lesbians of Color, Cornell University, 535 Willard Straight Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853.

Gay Men of African Descent, 80 Varick St., New York, 10013, 212-226-4433, 212-226-4462.

Gay Men of the Bronx, 1 Fordham Plaza #800, Bronx, NY 10458.

Haitian Coalition on AIDS, 50 Court St. #605, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-855-7275.

Lavender Light, 178 Clermont Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205, 212-222-9794.

Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee, 212-562-3131.

Lesbians and Gays of Flatbush, Box 106, Brooklyn, NY 11230, 718-859-9437.

Majority Action Committee, ACT-UP, Box 7932, New York, NY 10150.

Mama Doesn't Know! Productions, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-245-6366, 212-827-6350.

Men of All Colors Together/New York, Box 1518, New York, NY 10023, 212-245-6366, 212-222-9794.

Men of Color AIDS Prevention Program, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York, NY 10013, 212-566-4995.

Minority Lesbian and Gay Physicians and Medical Students, c/o Gene Nakajima, 155 E. 29th St. #19-H, New York, NY 10016, 212-213-9471.

Minority Task Force on AIDS, 92 St. Nicholas Ave. #1B, New York, NY 10026, 212-749-2816.

New York Chapter of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 1399, New York, NY 10026, 718-622-3576.

Other Countries, Box 3142, New York, NY 10008, 212-505-0506.

Parents of Color and Our Families, 718-596-7979.

Sister-to-Sister, New York, NY, 718-596-6000. HIV positive support group.

Study Group on Black Lesbians, Lesbian Herstory Archives, Box 1258, New York, NY 10116, 212-874-7232.

Unity Fellowship Church, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY

10011, 718-636-9212.

VOCAL, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York, NY 10013, 212-566-4995.

NORTH CAROLINA

Black and White Men Together/Charlotte, Box 411734, Charlotte, NC 28241.

Black and White Men Together/Triangle, Box 3411, Durham, NC 27702-3411, 919-490-1555.

Men of All Colors Together/Triad, Box 14327, Greensboro, NC 27414.

Black and White Men Together/Yadkin, Box 3434, Salisbury, NC 28145.

La Luchal Lesbians of Color, Asheville, NC, 704-251-0475. Triangle Coalition, Box 61671, Durham, NC 27715.

Triangle Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, BPW Club Rd., #A-11, Carboro, NC 27510, 919-933-6548. Umoja, Box 61671, Durham, NC 27715, 919-286-3880, 919-220-6738.

OHIO

Black and White Men Together/Cleveland, Box 5144, Cleveland, OH 44101-0144, 216-371-4597.

Black and White Men Together/Columbus, Box 151276, Columbus, OH 43215, 614-221-2734.

Black and White Men Together/Youngstown, Box 1436, Youngstown, OH 44501, 216-782-3483.

Cleveland Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, 216-851-6624.

Living the Dream, 1277 Brookwood Pl., Columbus, OH 43209, 614-252-4226.

Sistahparty, Box 6177, Cleveland, OH 44101, 216-348-3215.

OREGON

Black Lesbians and Gays United, Portland, OR, 503-231-5034.

Oregon Minority AIDS Coalition, Box 12048, Portland, OR 97212, 503-293-5870.

PENNSYLVANIA

Black and White Men Together/Pittsburgh, 1007 Franklin Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

Black and White Men Together/Philadelphia, Box 42257,

Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Black Gay Archives, Box 30024, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Black Men's Xchange, 215-848-4892.

Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI), 1233 Locust St. #401, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5414, 215-546-4140.

Les Femmes Unies, Box 42833, Philadelphia, PA 19101, 215-657-5130.

Unity, 4228 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19104-3015, 215-977-7562.

TENNESSEE

Black and White Men Together/Memphis, Box 42157, Memphis, TN 38174-2157, 901-726-1461.

Black Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Dignity, Box 1921, Memphis, TN 38101, 901-327-3943, 901-948-2345.

TEXAS

Ebony Connection, 227 Congress Ave. #125, Austin, TX 78701; Box 1428, Austin, TX 78767, 512-926-3786.

Men of All Colors Together/Austin, 3903 Seiders Ave. #104, Austin, TX 78756, 512-452-7360 (Craig).

Men of All Colors Together/Dallas, Box 190611, Dallas, TX 75219, 214-357-7898.

Men of All Colors Together/Houston, Box 541542, Houston, TX 77254-1542.

WASHINGTON

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth of Color Discussion Group, 4620 S. Findlay, Seattle 98136, 206-632-0500, 206-322-7900.

Men of All Colors and Cultures Together/Seattle, 1202 E. Pike St. #336, Seattle, WA 98122, 206-325-9833.

People of Color AIDS/HIV Support Group, Seattle, WA, 206-322-AIDS.

People of Color Against AIDS Network, 1200 S. Jackson #25, Seattle, WA 98144, 206-322-7061.

WISCONSIN

Black and White Men Together/Milwaukee, Box 12292, Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-265-8500.

LOC/Women of Color, 2500 W. Margaretta St., Milwaukee, WI 53209.

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Respondents needed: for a study on attractiveness and sexual appeal across the life span. Questionnaires are available from: Esther Rothblum, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405. (36)

Attention musicians: drummer and bass player needed for progressive, recording male vocal group. Must be experienced in R&B, gospel, jazz. Also auditioning 1st tenors & bass vocalists. For more information call: 213-484-9558. (42)

Wanted: Issue 1 of Sierra Domino Newsletter. Photocopy okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Call Alan Bell at 310-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (34)

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ORGANIZATIONS

Engineers/technical majors of African descent, especially those attending NSBE conference: let us begin to network, correspond amongst ourselves. Let's come together to ease the pressures of the classroom and boardroom. Being in racist, homophobic, conservative professions and majors can be overwhelming. All interested contact: AJ/Nubian-Conn, Box 2681, Washington, DC 20013. Include address, phone. Information kept confidential. (38)

Club F--Frottage. Multicultural social group for frottage men (rubbing). The Center, 208 W. 13th St., NYC. First Thursdays, 8 p.m. (35)

Love boys? NAMBLA seeks justice for men and boys interested in consensual relationships. Our monthly bulletin features news, fiction, letters, and art. Mailed discreetly. Subscribe! \$25/year. NAMBLA, Dept. B., Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (40)

Lesbian soccer players wanted for multi-ethnic team. Gay Games 1994. 408-279-0974. (35)

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 619-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 619-475-4407. (36)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accounting Clerk sought by the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. This individual will be responsible for data entry, typing, filing and light bookkeeping. 1-2 yrs acting exp., 45 wpm, knowledge of computer systems. \$8.00 per hour. Send resume to: The Center, 1213 N. Highland, Los Angeles, CA 90038; Attn: Personnel. (36)

Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (34)

African-American models over 18 wanted for all-male adult videos. Looking for at least one of the following: great body, gorgeous face or generous endowment. J/O only or participate with partner. Beginners OK. If you don't like the scene we shoot, or if you change your mind, we forget the whole thing. Have fun and make money. Call Scott Chandler at 310-338-9695, or send your picture to Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (34)

Black C.A.R.E. Project is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping to stop the spread of AIDS in the African-American gay and bisexual community. The Black C.A.R.E. Project is working on the streets to interview men at high risk for HIV infection, and also provides HIV testing and counseling. The project dedicated needs people of all kinds who can visit bars, or assist with various research related tasks. We especially need women to conduct interviews. Those who get along well with others, would like to go out into the community, have work processing skills, or those who have some other special skill are urged to call Dr. Vickie Mays at 310-206-5159. (38)

I am looking for men that know how to do it. The time is now to become financially free. Call/Write Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042. 708-450-8203. 24 hours. Gay-owned. (61)

Marketing Director position available. Graphic Designer with a flair for writing with Marketing background. Flex time, salary, benefits. Please call Judie at Theatre Rhinoceros, 415-552-4100. (36)

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Sports Writer. BLK is looking for a neophyte or experienced journalist to cover sports in the black lesbian and gay community across the country. A major focus will be ongoing coverage of Gay Games '94. If you're willing to put in time for basically expenses only, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (34)

UCLA's Black C.A.R.E. project is dedicated to the fight against HIV/AIDS in the black community. Black C.A.R.E.'S Black Men's Health Project is committed to gathering information on the experiences of gay and bisexual men to determine how to better meet their needs in coping with HIV

disease. Two positions available: Full-time prefer a master's degree, though not necessary, must be knowledgeable about the black community, organized, detail-oriented, able to work independently and can use computers. Part-time involves interviewing and outreach activities with black men, prefer individuals certified as post test counselors, though not necessary. Send resume to Black C.A.R.E. Project, 405 Hilgard Ave., 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563. (38)

West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Human Rights Campaign Fund, largest lesbian/gay political organization, seeks West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Responsibilities include building SpeaX Out constituent mail program through direct canvassing. Duties also include recruitment, training and supervision of paid volunteers throughout the western states. Individual must be self-starter, with excellent communication skills and ability to work under pressure. Extensive travel required. Previous canvass experience and/or volunteer management a plus. Position will be based on West Coast. Salary low 20s. Women and people of color encouraged to apply. Cover letter and resume by Oct. 20, 1992 to HRCF, Canvass Director, 1012 - 14th St., N.W. #607, Washington, DC 20005. (37)

Young men of color needed to pose nude or seminude for photographer's portfolio. Call 310-427-2778 for details. (38)

PLACES TO LIVE

Roommate wanted. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom balcony apartment. \$500 monthly includes utilities, water delivery, and cable. Must be employed full time, male or female. John 213-850-0548. (37)

Mt. Washington, large 2 story house to share with a view, private entrance, access to kitchen, private bathroom, \$430 per month, 1/2 utilities, move-in \$700. Working persons only, references, no drugs. Call Adamo at 213-225-7570. (36)

North Hollywood, 1 bedroom apartments \$520. Under black gay management, near 170, 101, and 405 fwy's. Rental info 818-382-7051. (36)

Looking for roommate for a three bedroom house, 1 1/2 bath, fireplace, washer and dryer, private room with telephone jack and wired for cable. \$450/mo., which includes utilities. Must have full time employment. For more information, call 213-274-6272. (36)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Submissions are now being accepted for Kuumba #3. Send your work with an SASE to: Ayofemi Siowa Felayan, Editor, Kuumba, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA

Respond to ads with a ✉ by mail. All mail is forwarded **FREE**.

Write the ✉ number on the outside of your envelope and send it to:

BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

The Lavender Network, a lesbian/gay/bi-sexual monthly statewide Oregon news-magazine, is interested in making queer people of color more visible. They need contributions of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, essays, AIDS/HIV updates, commentaries, features and news articles. Submit to: Frank Pancho Aviles, Editor, Lavender Network, Box 5421, Eugene, OR 97405. (37)

The Woman in the Moon Poetry Prize is open to all poets, female and male, to recognize and reward excellence in poetry composition, significance of theme, originality of thought, lyric and image, and for value to the world community as a symbol for the best and highest ideals of humanity. First prize \$100, second prize \$75, third prize, \$50. Submission fee \$3 for each four-poem (maximum) entry. Poems accepted Sept. 1-Nov. 17. Poet's name should not appear anywhere on the poem. Print your name, address, telephone and titles on a 3x5 card and enclose with your submission. Include a SASE. Mail to: T. Nelson Gilbert, Woman in the Moon Poetry Prize, 2215-R Market St. #137-CS, San Francisco, CA 94114. (37)

Hag Rag Interlactic Lesbian Feminist Press presents a two volume journey into the issues of race and class. How have class and race affected your own life and the lives of other lesbians in your community? What effective ways have you found or would you suggest for bridging the divisions of class and race amongst lesbians? Send written work or artwork, to Hag Rag, Box 1171, Madison, WI 53701 (37)

New bimonthly publication for news and commentary in the Pomona Valley/Inland Empire area. The Valley Alternative addresses the full spectrum of human and civil rights issues by providing a forum for the different voices that make up our multicultural, multiethnic communities. Send letters, commentary, poetry, illustrations, news and events to: The Valley Alternative, Box 1302, Guasti, CA 91743-1302 or call 714-860-1457 for more info. (37)

Call for materials for an anthology on lesbian erotic fantasies graphic details. It will be a mixed media collection of visual art, fiction, performance art, interviews and recipes. The anthology will explore the different ways that women of colour create, think, and act on erotic fantasies. Typed, double-spaced. Do not send originals. Deadline Nov. 30, 1992. Send queries on works to: Graphic Detail, Attn: Makeda Silvera or Leleti Tamu Sister, Vision Press, Box 217, Sta. E, Toronto, ON M6H 4E2 Canada. (37)

An anthology of stories and poems on school experiences by lesbian/gay students/teachers is being prepared. Send inquiries with an SASE to Ellen Hart, Cowell College, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA 95064. (37)

Lesbians Over 50! Too much of what we know about our history comes from outside observations, mostly those of doctors, police, and others who saw homosexuality as a sickness or a crime. Our history needs to be told by the people who lived it. If you were living in the Rocky mountain region during the 1940s or 1950s, or if you know anything about the lives of lesbians in this area at that time, call Katie Gilmartin collect at 303-322-5443 or write Box 300111, Denver, CO 80203-0111. (37)

Cold Iron, is an anthology of writing and art by and about gay, lesbian and queer prisoners. The types of incarceration experiences being sought for Cold Iron, include juvenile detention centers and reform schools; the problems facing transsexuals in prisons; homophobia in the system; prison lovers; the treatment of gays, lesbians and queers in foreign prisons; the problems facing ex-cons; and the sexual abuse of prisoners. Cold Iron will include fiction, non-fiction, poetry and letters. Submissions should be 3000 words or less, typed or legibly hand written, contain the author's name and complete address. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Artwork should be black and white drawings, photos, drafts or sketches of tattoos. Each submission should be accompanied by a short biography of the author or artist. Deadline is Dec. 31, 1992. Cold Iron, John Fall, 1457B - 22nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98122, or Lin Elliott, Indigenous Thought, 6802 S.W. 13th St., Gainsville FL 32608. (37)

Writers, scholars, artists, performers and social agitators are invited to submit proposals for papers, panels, workshops, roundtable discussions, video screenings and performance events for "Inside and Out: The Third National Graduate Student Conference on Queer Studies," to be held April 15-17, 1993, in Minneapolis. One page proposals should be received by Jan. 4, 1993, and should include a current address and phone number. Send proposals and inquiries to: Inside and Out, c/o Program in American Studies, 104 Scott Hall, 72 Pleasant St., S.E., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0225. (37)

Get paid for your work. Sexy black gay male fiction wanted for BLACKfire, a new bimonthly magazine of black gay erotica. Re-live your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Photography also accepted. Payment upon publication. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

New documentary explores gay sex before and after AIDS; Producers seek interviewees and footage. "A Geography of Desire," a new documentary currently in production by New York filmmaker Robert Rosenberg, explores the sexual lives and worlds of gay men from the 1970s through the present day. The producers are seeking men willing to be interviewed on cam-

era about their sexual experiences for possible inclusion in the piece. Potential interviewees, as well as people with visual materials for use in the documentary, are encouraged to contact the producers. "A Geography of Desire" will include as wide a range of sexual experience as possible. For further information contact: Robert Rosenberg, Producer or Tal McThenia, Associate Producer 718-783-8432. (36)

Submissions wanted for Multicultural Lesbian Relationships anthology. First person writings, cassettes of dialogues o.k. Can request interview. Some topics of interest: racism within and outside relationship; having/raising children; socializing/friendships; language differences, etc. Contact: Rene Dawson & Terri Jewell, Co-editors, Box 23154, Lansing MI 48909. SASE required with all correspondence. (38)

FOR SALE

Black ex-marine bodybuilder. Super hung, 21-year-old Cody Cherokee (see ad on inside back cover) has intimate photos available for sale. Send \$5 for nude sample plus catalog to Cherokee, Box 107, Miami, FL 33233. (35)

Read about "The Blackness" in Dress Black, a collection of poetry. Direct from \$10 + \$2 P&H, Ankh Enterprises, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (37)

Bad bold black men! For introductory set (10 men, 10 photos), send age (21+), signature, \$10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (38)

"Black Handfuls" features five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jockoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. \$29.95 plus \$3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (35)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: \$4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

BLACKfire, a new bimonthly magazine of black gay erotica. \$5.95 plus \$1.05 shipping/handling. BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just \$15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Black buck in a tux: A man's man. A service strictly devoted to pleasing debonair and discriminating "tall, medium brown-dark, endowed" black male executives, professionals, servicemen and pro-athletes. Discreet, confidential, handsome, travel companion. 202-529-2554. (37)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (37)

Come relax and enjoy a professional full body massage by a caring young black male in a private, safe environment. Great massage, reasonable rates. Jack, 213-419-1145. (37)

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3569 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, \$40 in West Hollywood, \$7 out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (34)

DATING SERVICES

Gay Voice Personals! Hear over 1000 personals of gay men in the area codes of your choice for 95 cents per minute (charged to your phone bill) at 900-776-6966, or 75 cents per minute (charged to your Visa or MasterCard) at 800-333-6966. You may leave your own personal for free at the 800 number above. When prompted for an ad code, enter 515. (36)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Professional, intelligent feminine GB lady seeks career oriented, goal seeking women for friendship, correspondence, travel and good conversation. Occupant, Box 2784, Dale City, VA 22193. (36)

GBM seeking femme, 55+, non-smoker, drugfree, sincere, independent. Into travel, shows, quiet times. Various interests. MW, Box 31703, Baltimore, MD 21207. (36)

Ghanian lesbian, 22, wants penpal. all ages. Write Joan, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana. (37)

BGM seeking Bi/lesbian female for friendship. Box 32624, Long Beach, CA 40832. 1035. (36)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (E)

TALKING PERSONALS. CALL 1-900-407-8666

TO HEAR AND LEAVE MESSAGES FOR ADS. \$1.95 FIRST MIN. 95¢ MIN. THEREAFTER.
TO PLACE A FREE TALKING PERSONALS AD CALL 1-800-937-7298

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

GWM, 6'4", 215 lb., 44, A/P, Fr/G, HIV+, computer whiz, crusader, seeks ethical, horny, black, long-term lover. Almost any age/size considered. Roedy Green, 601-1330 Burrard, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2B8, Canada. (37)

I am 20 years old, black in complexion and want pen pals from all over the world, both men and women between the ages of 19-25. My hobbies are swimming, traveling and watching movies. I seek a lesbian and gay relationship as well. Darlington Nino Brown, Box 788 Dansoman, Accra, Ghana. (37)

Good looking man, 65 years old, into arts, music, and paint, seeks masculine, straight acting, and very well endowed male for friendship and more. Letters with photos (nude preferred) answered first. Antoine Lenartowski, 14 rue Nouaille Degorice, 17200 Royan, France. (37)

Hello from Belgium. Blond, blue eyes, 38, slim, calm, serious, would like relationship with very muscular black body builder. Write with photo: Lambert Pirotte, 43 rue Coplay, 4020 Wandre, Belgium. (37)

Attractive young blond Dutch male, looking for handsome black men for friendship, pen pals and fun. Write to Ton Verhees, Van Hilligaert Straat 286, 1072 PN, Amsterdam, Holland. You won't be disappointed! (38)

Aussie koala bear, 34, bottom, into B&D, S&M and more, wishes to correspond with GWM top into this and more. Age, looks aren't important; imagination and stamina are. Would also like to hear from GWM bottoms into the same. Cum on guys. Greg, Box 2361, Sydney NSW, Australia 2001. (38)

White Australian man, age 34, seeks black man between 35-45 with moustache or beard and non-smoker. Send photo. Box 645, Mawson, A.C.T. 2607, Australia. (36)

Dutch man, 37, white, blond, slim, 5'11", 72 kg., serious, honest and sincere, likes music, arts, reading, animals, nature, wants to correspond with guys any age up to 45 who also believe that honesty and faith are they key-words for building up a friendship. Please write to: Nico, Postbus 254, 1600 AG Enkhuizen, Holland. (36)

BGM, 23, 6'4", cut, slightly chubby, coming out. Loves to read black gay novels and books, i.e. "Brother to Brother." I love soul-rock music, black gay porno videos. You must be black, masculine, 25-35 years old, over 6' tall, HIV+, no bisexuals or married queens. I'll only reply to people who send a preferably nude picture and name to: Dele Alade, 88 Seymour Ave., Tottenham, London N17 9ED, England. (37)

GWM, 35, 5'9", 170#, attractive, masculine, blue eyes, dark blond hair, bearded,

very friendly, humorous, intelligent, open-minded, seeks new friends, travel contacts or more? T.H., Box 39083, Pt. Grey R.P.O., Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P1, Canada. (36)

GWM, 25, seeks GMB, Box 500130, W-6, Frankfurt, Germany. (36)

GWM, 38, 5'10", 165#, athletic, hairy body, dark balding hair, green eyes, moustache, attractive, friendly, well-traveled, multilingual, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, hung, warm, sincere, straight-acting, Greek passive GMB for fun, friendship, visits. Other races welcome. Photo please. Atlan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018, Paris, France. (36)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Black is sexy and that's what I love. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5, Canada. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Fine black men wanted. Box 370171, Birmingham, AL 35237. (34)

Stocky brunettes wanted in Birmingham. MDC, 16th Ave., North Birmingham, AL 35204. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

Seek handsome gay top man of color for live in lover, drug/nicotine free, \$ stable, over 35, furry a+. Jim, GWM, 63, F/AP, G/P; Tucson, AZ. 160. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

GWM, 41, 6', 185, seeks friendship/relationship with drug-free GM. Send photo with letter (if possible). 176. (39)

GWM, 36, 5'11", 155, seeks BM, 28-40 for friendship and possible relationship. Enjoy romantic evenings, movies, theater, committed monogamous relationship. Wayne. 3473. (39)

White male, slender, HIV-neg., 5'8", 150, mature, seeks top hung blacks, 7+, any age. Must be HIV-neg. No drugs. Boxholder A, Box 10436, Oakland, CA 94610. (37)

Attractive GMB, 26, 5'10", 165#, looking for attractive Latino or GMB in the East Bay area. Masculine, versatile Latino or GMB need apply. Photo and phone # a

must. 3335. (38)

GWM, 30, 5'8", top seeks bottom, San Francisco area, Robert. 3120. (38)

GMB, 150#, 5'5" short but deep bottom, bubble butt and attractive, seeks top Bi or GMB for friendship and fun. Photo welcome and returned. Write Box 30762, Oakland, CA 94604. (37)

San Francisco BM, 25, 5'10", 160, looking for guys, any race, to date. HIV status doesn't matter, personality does. Jonathan. 3415. (39)

Robert, Bay Area, seeks single BM, 20-35. 3366. (38)

What's up? Mike, 27, 5'7", 162, goodlooking, medium brown complexion, seeks muscular, nice equipped BM. Peace. 3303. (38)

GMB, 25, 5'10", 160, nice bod, seeks any race 18+ for pool at the Eagle Creek or Pendulum. Jessie. 3126. (38)

BGM, 36, 5'11", 155, romantic and mature, looking for BM 28-40 for friendship and monogamous relationship. 3318. (38)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Me too; let's talk. Louis. 415-474-5377. (39)

Dark brown, 53, 5'11", 180 lbs., HIV-, enjoys oral plus body contact. Outdoorsman, but enjoys cozy fireplace, too. Seek stable African-American men only. 40-60. 3439. (37)

GWM, 31 y/o, top, 5'8", would like to meet GMB, bottom, in San Francisco, preferably smooth and dark. Objective: knockin' boots. Call 415-431-0938. (36)

BM, 25 y/o, well end, stays on top all night. Loves to be suckled by all ages, all nationalities. 3371. (38)

GMB, HIV+, healthy, 5'6", 37, warm, loving and extremely affectionate. I'm seeking a serious 1-on-1 partner who enjoys romance, bike-riding, theatre, and quiet evenings. 3349. 168. (38)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Lets talk. Louis. 415-474-5377. (36)

San Diego Area

Goodlooking, masculine, discreet, BM, 38, 5'11", 185, many interests, bottom, brown complexion, soft baby skin, seeks masculine top man of color for friendship/relationship. Jay Jay, Oceanside, CA. 3422. (39)

Black, professional bodybuilder, mature, seeks live-in Man Friday in exchange for room and board. I'm a healthy non-smoker with varied interests including music and opera; currently I'm studying voice. I seek a mature black man to handle correspondence and the telephone, generally acting as a protective shield against social and casual distractions. You are perhaps of retirement age and have another source of income. You are responsible, patient, willing to pitch in, a non-smoker and willing to

move to Palm Springs. If you're serious about companionship, and work in exchange for meals and a place to live, please write or call. Hank, Box 654, Palm Springs, CA 92262. 619-322-0508. (37)

GMB, 47, wants to meet 40+ GMB. Serious only. Answer machine: 619-324-5450. (36)

Mature, professional, fun-loving GMB, 28, seeks similar GWM or Latino. Mike B. 619-297-0467 or Box 3658, San Diego, 92163. (36)

Free fone J/O submissive seeks dominator. 619-292-1922. (36)

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-521-1341. (40)

Hot, desert topman (GWM); masculine, oversexed stud! "Mac," 619-343-1220. (36)

Los Angeles Area

Richard, BGM, 25, 6'3", 190, good looking, likes going to gym, movies, sports, reading. Hollywood area. Let's rap. 3459. (39)

Where is the beef? I know that the answer is in you, owners of Big Black Delicatessen, meaning 10"x5" or larger. If you really are interested in a Hispano American man who is 5'9", 35 years old, 150 pounds, 29" waist, bronzed complexion, etc., write to Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA

WARNING TO READERS!

BLK has received a number of complaints from readers who have been the victims of financial scams initiated by prisoners.

The postal authorities offer these guidelines to help you avoid becoming a victim:

1. Any type of financial arrangement entered into with an inmate should be highly suspect, especially those in which the inmate requests financial favors, i.e., cashing postal money orders.

2. Money orders received from inmates should be immediately returned to them without cashing.

3. If you feel that you have been or are being victimized by an inmate initiated money order cashing scheme immediately contact the nearest Postal Inspector or Postmaster.

BLK strongly advises readers to use the utmost caution when corresponding with inmates.

BLK cannot be held responsible for any financial loss or physical injury that may result from such correspondence.

BLACKfire

the new erotic male magazine featuring the images and experiences of black men will set you ablaze with sizzling short stories and fierce photography.

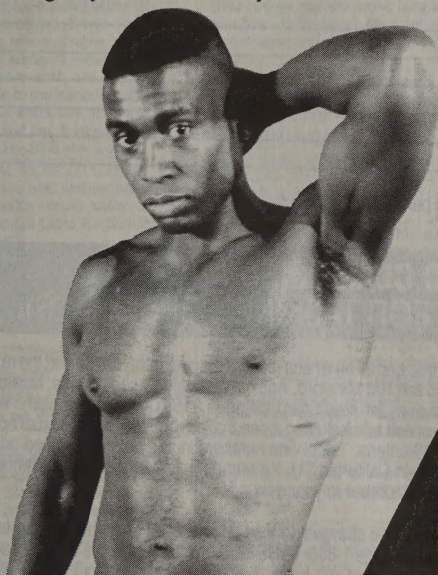
BLACKfire brings you the best looking African-American men in all their muscle bound glory that'll make your mouth water.

Which
Ever Way
Your
Tastes
Run

BLACK LACE

the one and only erotic magazine for African-American lesbians.

BLACK LACE features hot short stories; wonderful, sensual poetry; raunchy fantasy letters; ribald artwork; and photography that'll "wet" your sexual appetite.



We
Can
Satisfy!

BLACKfire

- ☐ 1 year (6 issues) \$30.
☐ 2 years (12 issues) \$54.

Outside of U.S., add \$24 per six issues, payable in U.S. funds only.
BLACKfire is mailed in an envelope. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery of first issue.

BLACK LACE

- ☐ 1 year (4 issues) \$20.
☐ 2 years (8 issues) \$36.

Outside of U.S., add \$16 per four issues, payable in U.S. funds only.
BLACK LACE is mailed in an envelope. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery of first issue.

- ☐ Check or money order attached made payable to the publication of your choice. Mail it and this form to: Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.
☐ Bill my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Credit card number _____ Expiration date _____

Name (please print) _____ Signature (I am 18 years of age or older) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classified Ad Form

BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

Please print and sign where indicated. None of this information will appear in your ad, but our lawyers tell us we must have it on file. "I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications."

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day Phone (_____) _____ Evening Phone (_____) _____

Signed _____

Write the text of your ad here:

☐ Check here if you would like BLK to forward responses to your printed personal ad to you for FREE.

FREE TALKING PERSONALS

You may place a printed personal ad of up to 30 words in BLK FREE if you also place a FREE message on BLK's TALKING PERSONALS. Call toll-free 1-800-937-7928 to record your personal greeting. Your FREE ad and FREE personal greeting may not include a phone number or address.

If you want an ad longer than 30 words or want to include your phone number or address in your ad, please use the paid ad section of this form.

When you record your FREE personal greeting, you will be assigned a mailbox number. Write that number in the space below. Next, write the text of your ad in the space above. Your FREE printed ad will run in BLK for three issues.

You may listen to the messages left for you on BLK's TALKING PERSONALS line by calling 1-900-933-4630. The charge is only 55¢ per minute.

What is your mailbox number?

_____ (required)

PAID CLASSIFIED ADS (DO NOT USE FOR TALKING PERSONALS)

Personals which don't qualify for free and all other ads (except employment) are paid at the rate of 40¢ per word. Employment ads are 10¢ per word. Ads may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Minimum for credit card billing is \$15. Do not send cash. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$3 (within California \$1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad.

You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals \$15 or more. Call toll-free 1-800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

Name of credit card _____

Expires _____

Credit card number _____



_____ words at 40¢

\$ _____

_____ words at 10¢ (employment only)

\$ _____

Cost to run your ad one month

\$ _____

Number of times you want your ad to run _____

Total cost of ads

\$ _____

Phone verification at \$3 (within California \$1)

\$ _____

24-issue subscription at \$30

\$ _____

12-issue subscription at \$18

\$ _____

Total enclosed (send no cash)

\$ _____

Respond to ads with a by mail. All mail is forwarded FREE.

Write the  number on the outside of your envelope and send it to:

BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

90076. Telephone number available upon request. (39)

Light brown, 5'9", medium build, muscular, enjoys movies, dinner. Versatile. Gene. #3460. (39)

GBM, HIV, well hung, friendly, would like to meet older big WM. Can be bald, HIV, like to kiss, hug, 69, etc. 213-930-0190, Thu.-Sun. after 5 p.m. (37)

Carlos, 6'4", Cuban, green eyes, blond, seeks dark skinned black male, extremely well hung that loves to lay back and get serviced. No need to reciprocate. The bigger the better. #3467. (39)

Very handsome Middle-Eastern guy, 35, 5'9", 155 lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light brown skin, trim, masculine, straight-acting, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Seeking one-to-one friendship with a black or Latino guy, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (37)

Damien, BM, 33, 6'3", 215, athletic, football player type build, well endowed, medium complexion, seeks under 35, endowed. In shape Latins A+. No hangups. Peace. #3406. (39)

Gay black male, professional, 38, HIV negative, straight-acting, sincere, honest seeks gay white male, blond, straight-acting for friendship. Tony. 818-794-1704. (37)

GL blond, seeks sexy GBM to please. Roy. 818-896-8890. (37)

Slim, lean BM from Texas, 6'2", 165 lbs. Let's reach out and touch. (I'm horny.) #3409. (39)

Very masculine, handsome, appealing top, BM, 30, independent, considerate and successful. Seeking others who are clever, passionate and sincere. I enjoy men who are under 37, under 170#, under 6'1" and aBUNdant in the right areas (round BUNS). I'm looking for you for some healthy fun and? Call Lee at 310-6009-1876. I travel. (36)

BGM, 37, 5'6", 155, loves to mingle, give Wayne a call. #3117. (38)

BGM, 6', 40, masculine bottom likes hard body tops who like to freak. Eddy. #3124. (38)

Are you genuine, honest? BM, 21, 5'6", nice, clean student, new to L.A., into music, movies. Interested in Latinos, blacks for friendships, fun (going out, quiet times, ??); serious only. #161. (36)

Blk/brother, 160#, 5'8", gym member looking for partner who is also gym member for workouts. Peace! #3125. (38)

GWM, 53, seeks GBM, same age or older. John: 310-842-3989. (36)

Attractive, 5'9", 160#, 21, live alone, dark brown skin, nice build, well endowed, seeks brothers who know how to kick it and be safe. Jay. #3411. (39)

White bottom, 29, 5'9", 145#, very goodlo-

oking, masculine HIV- athletic mountain bicyclist racer, with very well developed and very clean-shaven legs/butt, seeks BM athletic HIV- hung 9+ and thick for some hard long riding. Scott: 714-222-4931. (38)

Anthony, 6'3", 195, seeks blk masc. top. You won't be disappointed. #3305. (38)

Gordon, 5'11", 190, dark blonde, blue eyes, bubble-butt bottom seeks quality black tops. #3307. (38)

GWM, 35, 6'2", 195, athletic, attractive, financially secure, enjoys sports, movies, into area, seek BM 20-40. #3324. (38)

GBM built like football player, hung long and thick 11x7 1/2, seeks other hot hung men for safe good times. Drake: 213-734-2042. (36)

Edwardo, 34, 5'10", 160, light brown skin, short hair, goodlooking, homebody, top man, looking for someone to workout with in more ways than one. #3322. (38)

Yo! Yo! Yo! Jeff 1/2 black and 1/2 Puerto Rican, suburbs of Detroit, 10' piece, waiting and ready to do the wild thang with other home boys. #3328. (38)

BM 25, 5'10", 165, whatup? Masculine looking for same. #3337. (38)

Attractive, masculine, healthy, educated, Southern cocoa brown male, 34, 5'9", 165#, hot sexy build, creative budding screenwriter, UCLA grad student, seeks romantic jungle fever in Los Angeles with a handsome, hairy, muscular, clean-cut blond type professional, thirtysomething who enjoys sweaty jazz nights, whip cream baths, candlelight, beaches and sweet monogamy. Michael. #3338 or 3339. #167. (38)

Sexy WM, 30, wants to meet well built hung black tops for fun times. Call Wesley: 310-987-4088. (37)

BGM, caramel-colored, 29, 6'1", 175, bottom, seeks top men 5'8" or taller, 8+ and larger, down to earth, 25-45. Derrick. #3435. (37)

Two GWMs, 40s, looking for 3rd for fun & safe sex. Reply: Box 885, Winchester, CA 92596. (36)

Black men are nicer, sexier, and more fun. Call or write to this good-looking blond and prove it. Lee. #3316. #162. (38)

Handsome black man, straight appearing, sexy with dancer's build, 5'8", 150#, well groomed, short hair, beard, moustache, hairy, hot and loves sex, wants sexy top black or masculine bottom in shape. #3336. #166. (38)

Eugene, slender, tall, ebony artist, seeks aggressive man. No boozers or losers, no thugs or drugs, no chubbies or hobbies. #3373. (38)

Richard, 26, 6'3", 190, brown skin, attractive, enjoys hitting the gym, mountain biking, movies, hiking. Looking for someone similar. #3372. (38)

Dale, BM, 42 y/o, 5'9", 170, workout with

weights, looking for big buff brothers. I like to massage from traps to toes. (38)

Masculine, educated GWM, middle-aged, 5'9", 155#, in good shape, likes muscular GBM, 30+ for dates, outdoor sports and indoor fun, safe-sex, dinners, movies. Dave: 213-650-4547. (36)

Gay male, 38, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce, 310-338-9695. (TF)

Lauren, young hot black buck, seeks top hot black urban cowboy to teach me the finer points of riding 6'2", 190 lbs. of black/Hispanic man. I'll supply the saddle. You bring the boots and the riding crop. #3115. (38)

Michael, 6', 185, muscular, masculine, attractive B/M seeks BM/WM 22-30. #3008. (38)

GBM looking for that special someone: you must be masculine, friendly, honest and affectionate. Serious only. No fats or fems please. 213-931-3412. (36)

Ron, WM, 5'7", 165, med build, brown/blue, very sensitive bottom, great massage, seeks HIV-, attractive, hung, well built BM. #3341. (38)

To Afro-leathermen; if you would truly like to be in a relationship that is all about the look, the feel, and the attitude of leather, with a mature white male who genuinely cares, then call me now for an interview that will give us both a chance to prove it. Michael: 213-684-5811. (36)

BGM, 33, 5'10", 160, hung top seeks BM, attractive, who knows where he's going in life. Possible relationship. Enjoy movies, video, bike riding. Edwardo. #3369. (38)

Robert, GBM, very attractive, to meet intelligent, responsible, very attractive hot top for relationship, romance, dating. #3363. (38)

Exhibitionists unite: amateur photographer looking for in shape, well endowed blacks and Latinos for models. Trade photos (artistic only) for your time. Shots à la Ritts, Weber. Show me what you have! Call Ted: 213-224-0243. (38)

If you're horny Latin or black and love to receive expert head tonight. Call Jim 818-344-1913. (36)

BM, 30, 5'11", 150#, into sports, bicycling, travel; looking for masculine top man, any race. Call Lonnell. #3106. (38)

If you're horny Latin or black and love to receive expert head tonight, call Jim 818-344-1913. (36)

Warren, 6'2", 190, 26 y.o., seeks masculine, tall, independent top. #3115 (38)

Yo, this is J.D., BGM, 5'6", 135#, 40. I need a workout buddy that is taller and bigger, who is prepared for anything in and out of weight room. I am into feet; size 12 or bigger is a +. #1052. (37)

GWM, 30s, 5'9", 135#, wide-ranging interests, intellectual, musical, versatile and affectionate, seeks men (esp. of color) for friends who enjoy hot, prolonged intimate sessions. #3024. (37)

Attractive BGM, 28, 6', 182#, enjoys reading, tennis, and the wild thang. If you have a good ass, call me. Kevin. #3026. (37)

BGM interested in meeting other BGM or LGM for fun and friendship. Must be into safer sex. I am 6'1", 185#. I am a top sexually. Let me hear from you. #3031. (37)

GBM seeking other GBMs who know what they want in a big bottom. I'm 6'4", 208# and loaded for action. If you're a die-hard top man, don't hesitate to give me a call. I'll serve you right. #3066. (37)

I'm black male, 33. Looking for WM 33-40 for movie and dinner. #3038. (37)

Sexy, down to earth, attractive 30-year-old GBM bodybuilder seeks masculine, well-built brother that's not fem or on drugs. I am seeking a possible relationship or strong friendship. I enjoy bodybuilding, movies and traveling. #3028. (37)

BGM, 30, 5'11", 150#, into sports, bicycling, travelling, seeks one to one relationship with masculine toman, any race. #3106. (37)

GBM, 26, AIDS activist, writer, poet, loves independent films, art films, reading, art galleries and music. 5'6", 120#, nice swimmer's body. Loves intelligent conversation over quirky meals. #3030. (37)

Very goodlooking BGM, 27, 6'1", 175, 9 1/2", seeks the perfect bottom for movies, dinner and fun. You should definitely know how to enjoy what I have to give. #3025. (37)

Looking for someone special to start a relationship with. Am sincere, loving, peaceful male 39, 5'8", slim, black. Enjoy concerts, movies, plays, candlelight dinners. Seek sexually versatile male any race (especially Latino) over 30. Alex. #3102. (37)

Attractive, black male, 41, 6'2", 195 lbs. Okay, that's the physical side. Also am professional, successful (so they tell me), intelligent, a good listener, and fun to be around. Enjoy music, working out (no, not bodybuilding, just working out), movies, eating in good restaurants, stimulating conversation, and long romantic nights. You are attractive, black male, with most of the above qualities (age is not a factor ...there are mature 26-year-olds, and there are also 35-year-old teenagers). If you are seriously looking for an interesting, stimulating and romantic companion, please write and send a photo with your phone number. The good times are waiting. #1027. #148. (36)

BM, 48, wants clean friends 40-50. Fun and love. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (36)

TALKING PERSONALS. CALL 1-900-407-8666

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GWM seeks GBM. Me: goodlooking, 6'4", 205 lbs., big dick into AA recovery, gym. HIV+. You: tall, black guy with real big cock into finding a relationship/lover. Joe. ♀ 149. (37)

Leon Parker of Tujunga, CA: Write D.P. Box 84174 L.A., CA 90073. (36)

Baldwin Hills GWM seeking masculine sex buddies. 213-294-4739. (36)

Attractive GWM, 44, 6', 185, hairy-chested, mustached, professional, easy-going, sensual, healthy, versatile, oral-seeks very muscular (bodybuilder a plus), black male for regular mutually satisfying meetings. 213-433-9712 before 10 p.m. (36)

BM, 41, 5'10", 165, wants relationship. Call 618-891-2186. (36)

Attractive GBM, seeks tall, handsome GWM. 213-852-0219. (36)

This very attractive brown skin male, 30, 5'10", 150 lbs. seeks a brown skin overly attractive uncultured HIV+ pretty boy, 21-27. Call Chris 213-487-3471. Read this ad twice before you call. (37)

BGM, HIV+, 31, kind, loving, warm personality, wheelchair bound, speech impaired, seeking a BGM, with similar qualities and seriously interested in me. Call Mark at 310-673-5617. Serious calls only! No call after 11 p.m. (36)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant muscular dominate man. 818-765-5132. (36)

Fat GBM, 18-30, 250-400# sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (39)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

GWM, 30 years, quiet type, seeks GBM, 25 years. ♀ 3029. ♀ 157. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

BM, 25, 6'2", 200, masculine, top, seeks masculine GBM. No feds/fats. Letter/photo to Boxholder, Box 230020, Old State House Sta., Hartford, CT 06123-0020. (35)

GWM, 24, attractive, professional, stable, seeks similar GBM for friendship. Box 79, Groton, CT 06340. (36)

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

Black bi male, 6'3/2", 215#, attractive, masculine, seeks black young servicemen (ex-Marines, Army, Navy guys) and young

men 25-35 for friendship; no feds, no feds. Box 29232, Washington, DC 20017. (36)

Black wrestler looking for others masculine guys into hot and sweaty wrestling action in swim trunks, jocks, etc. Long, man to man, erotic wrestling action and oil wrestling. Box 91428, Washington, DC 20090-1428, or call 202-291-0907. (38)

MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

Hot BM, 25-year-old, well-endowed, Tampa area. ♀ 3375. (38)

Mitch, black, 24, 5'10", 155, very attractive, muscular, masculine seeks others. ♀ 3359. (38)

GWM, 42, look early 30s, good looking, super nice guy, seeks black males 18-45 for friendship and goodtimes. Well worth the time it takes to write, so please do. Joe, Box 152943, Tampa, FL 33684. ♀ 1049. (36)

BM, 24, seeks GM, 18-30. Enjoy movies, music, sports, good times. Lee. ♀ 3393. (39)

BlkM, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—GA

Atlanta. Seek guys who are versatile, witty and ready to party. We can get it on. I'm 5'9", 155. Don. ♀ 3453. (39)

GWM, 49, 5'5-1/2" 168 lbs, healthy HIV+, kind, loving, medium built, blue eyes, speech impaired, into music, like basketball, bowling, dining out, and spending quiet evenings at home. Seeking and looking for that special GBM who is friendly, honest, masculine, and affectionate for companionship and possible relationship. Must be into safe sex and no drugs. Serious only. No feds or feds. Please write and send a photo with your phone number. Let me hear from you. Larry. ♀ 3376. ♀ 175. (39)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

Blond/blue, handsome, endowed professional seeks young, affectionate Afro-American. Military/visitors welcome. Rick, 808-924-3761. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Seeking brother 6' or taller, under 200#, who needs that special attention. I can take what you have to give. I'm not into size, but a man with 'hood' turns me on. ♀ 3455. (37)

BGM, 6'2", 200#, 29, discreet, masculine, very oral seeks masculine top, well-endowed bubble-butt BGM for erotic corre-

spondence and friendship. Your picture gets mine...go for it homeboy. ♀ 164. (36)

35 year old GBM, HIV+ (asymptomatic), professional person. In the final stages of completing my Ph.D. I'm looking for friendships and possible long-term relationship. ♀ 3464. (39)

Maurice, 29, 6'2", 200, seeks other masculine top BM to kick it with and correspond. ♀ 3311. (38)

Muscular BiWM, 30, 6'0", 175#, bottom/Versatile, hung, seeks hot, top/versatile black men for solo or group action. Nationwide penpals, travelers welcome. Chicago area. ♀ 165. (36)

WM, 37, 5'11", 178, Bill, sports, weights, nice looking, solidly built, seek 37-55, very masculine, loving, 200+, down to earth, non-promiscuous. ♀ 3340. (38)

GWM seeks GBM over 6'. Slender, modern looking, stable, fun. Ph. 312-525-1267. (37)

GWM, 26, 5'8", 160#, HIV+, muscular versatile hot bod, seeks same or top GBM or GHM muscular types only, for hot safe sex play, flexing, scenes, laughs, etc. ♀ 3323. ♀ 163. (38)

Black masculine male bottom, 50, 5'7", 170#, 34" waist, seeks white or Asian top. Must be masculine and well hung. Tall and/or into active/passive butt-flicking. Write: Bob, Box 708744, Chicago, IL 60640. (37)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., attractive, athletic, tight body, masculine, versatile seeks GBM for safe fun and more. 312-327-4895. (36)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29 years old, 8½" and thick. Seeks black or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

GBM, 36, Christian, desires GWM friendship. CEP, 425 Connecticut St. #302, Gary, IN 46402. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

Gay light-skinned male, 37, 5'5", 155#, brn eyes, black curly hair, no drugs, don't drink, just smoke cigarettes. Enjoy Gr/Gr both ways, fun to be with, good health. Looking for GWM lover, neat and clean chubby guy. Write with photo. Bill C., 605 Maple St., Franklin, MA 02038. (36)

Upwardly mobile GBM seeks nubile Nubian for loving, man to man relationship. Dancers and football players welcome. Please wear spandex to tryouts. Paul: 617-427-5922, late nites or messages. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Down-to-earth, 51-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM who is interested in a meaningful relationship. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim or muscular build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo to ♀ 154 or call 301-779-6738 (evenings/weekends). (36)

It could be you! Would like to meet the right person for the right thing. Johnny Y, Box 56, Temple Hills, MD 20757. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

BM, 35, 6'1", 220 pounds seeks tall BM into bodybuilding, nice looking, athletic. AL. ♀ 3471. (39)

GBHM, sincere, honest, attractive, 26-year-old, muscular, muscular, ultra-romantic and tired of being mistaken for heterosexual. Seeks a correspond with all minorities that are serious about friendship with a possible relationship. I have seen a lot of life and I do know what I want. I have experienced enough to know what I desire and still believe that my Soul-Mate is out there. Gay is "not my life" but "part of my life!" Like spending time with friends, working out, traveling, dancing, romantic dinners, etc. Photo will be exchanged for one of mine. Box 02666, Detroit, MI 48202-0666. ♀ 3470. (37)

Andre, GBM, 5'11", 170, 23, slender, nice build, would like to meet other black or Latino men 23-30, who must be educated and knowledgeable. ♀ 3320. (38)

I love to talk on the phone, would like to meet someone special. James. ♀ 3097. (38)

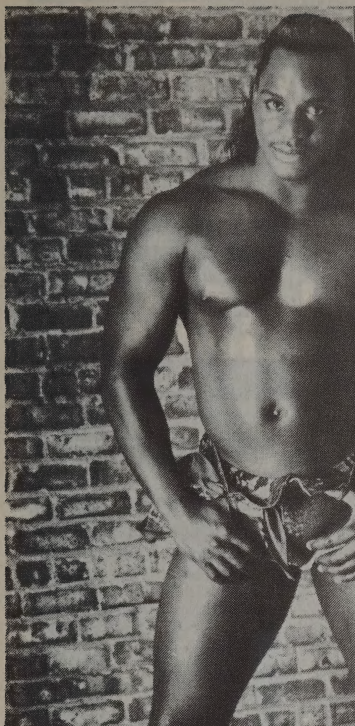
Muscular, hot, GBM, 6'1", 200#, 22 yrs, hazel eyes, light brown skin, 32" waist, very good looking, lots of fun and in great shape, versatile with many interests, looking for fun, friendship, correspondence, and possibly a relationship with other sincere, attractive, well built, intelligent, good natured, sexy BM or Latin guys all over. Guys who are hairy, muscular and/or taller than 6' are a definite plus but not necessary. No feds/feds. Write me and let's see what we come up with. Robert Scott II, 9223 Prest, Detroit, MI 48228-2207. (36)

What's up? I love to rub. I'm black and hot. Let's get together and party. Seek black men only. Kevin. ♀ 3441. (39)

Yo baby yo baby yo. Puerto Rican black male top wants black Puerto Rican/Latino/Arab/Mexican men, bottoms. Fun, friendship, homeboy love. Later man. Let's get busy. Yeh! Jeff. ♀ 1013. ♀ 155. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Marion Saint-Truss, Unit 28, #68702, Parchman, MS 38738. (35)



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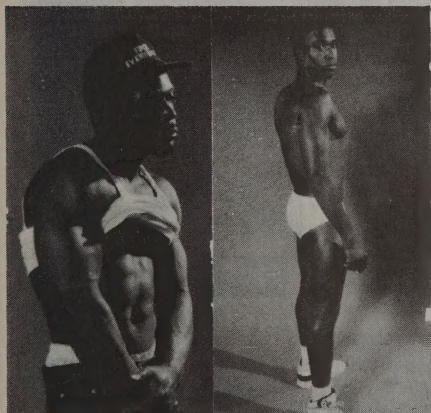
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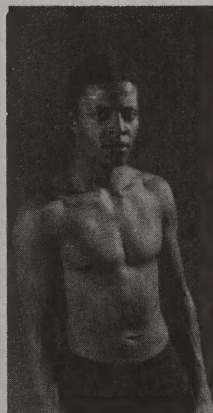
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MEN'S PERSONALS—MO

GBM, 20, passive, wants blk gentlemen from 22-40 for pen friends. Will travel for right person. Must be very masculine/bl, top, and serious. Phone and phone. All responses answered. LaMark: 816-924-1923. (36)

GWM, 27, 6'1", 175, blond/brown, moustache, versatile bottom, St. Louis area, seeks exciting goodlooking black guys. ♀ 3342. (38)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NE

GWM searching GBM. Vers. bodybuilder. 190+ and 6'0"+. Boxholder, 221 Jones #3F, Omaha, NE 68102-3017. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

GBM, 25, 165 lbs., straight-acting, good build, intelligent college senior, seeks straight-acting white or Latin men 20-30 for friendship. Moving to L.A. 8/92. Reply R.W., Box 72573, Las Vegas, NV 89170-2573. (36)

GBM, 33, 6'3" hairy seeks GWM, 35+, hairy enjoys tiwork, leather scenes, etc. Write with photo to T.C., 503 Mill St. #16, Reno, NV 89502. (36)

Together black man, "In the Life" sought by GWM 37, 5'11", 210, affectionate, loyal, healthy, non-drinker, tobacco use, professional, sense of humor, happy, intelligent, and reasonably good looking. You: GBM 30s/40s with similar qualities. I am more interested in what's between your ears than between your legs. I am looking for the following in a potential friend/life-mate: willing to risk love, no hard drugs/booze, clean, open-minded, honest, non-angry, emotionally stable, demonstrative, real, educated, employed/employable with mostly similar interests: science, technology, art, real estate, reading (sci-fi to Joseph Beams) music (Motown to disco), movies, dogs, home life, old cars, dinners out, cooking, socializing, not a barfly or size-queen, in search of a long-term relationship (my last was with GBM, 10 years), romance, travel (S.F., etc.), massage, general safe sex. You should, if we click, be willing and able to live in this occasionally bigoted and culturally isolated city of Reno, Nevada. Please no hustlers, con, user, bisexuals, confused, mental cases, attitude, one night stands, violence, or emotional instability or those without the willingness or ability to contribute 50/50 in building a relationship, these need not fill my P.O. Box. Your phone # or letter will get my reply. Bill A., Box 9201, Reno, NV 89507-9998. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

GWM, 34, 5'8", 160, HIV+, healthy, masculine and attractive. Seeks a masculine brother 18+ to chill with, live with and love. I was raised in a mixed family and have always been attracted to black men. I'm professional, caring, sensitive and stable. Photo guarantees response. ♀ 169. (37)

Latin male, professional, clean, masculine, mid-40s, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No voices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

BGM, 36, attractive, 6'1", 205 lbs., athletic globe-trotter, straight appearance, professional. Seeks stable BM friendship/possible relationship with sports, health, movies and numerous interests. Must be 29-40 years, 5'10" plus, in shape. No smokers, druggies, or fats. Letter and photo for reply. ♀ 173. (37)

Hi. My name is Raymond. I'm a BGM, 32, 5'7", 187 lbs., HIV+, Cancerian ISO dialogue with compatible, hairy, tall, GWM for love/relationship. No additions. Leos, Taurus men a +, ♀ 3444, ♀ 174. (39)

Athletic, BGM, Jamaican, intelligent, down to earth, top, 30, 5'9", 140 lbs., seeks a no B/S, mature, compatible, in-shape, healthy, conscious brother. Box 1447, New York, NY 10113-1447. (37)

GBHM, sincere, honest, attractive, 26, masculine, muscular, romantic, interested in all minorities who are into friendship with possible relationship. You should be masculine and drug free. ♀ 3470. (39)

White male, middle age, enjoys the company of black males for quiet times, dinner and movies, New York City area. Respond to John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (36)

Monty, BM, 32, 5'10", 190, muscular build, military, new to New England area, seeks WM 25-45. ♀ 3004. (38)

Tall, goodlooking, wants to date a black guy. Michael. ♀ 3099. (38)

Attractive, cute BGM, 23, look younger, light brown complexion, 5'10", 130, bottom. Seeks solid, dominant B-Boys who know what they want in the N.Y., N.J. areas. ♀ 171. (36)

Attractive PR, 41, 140#, 5'11", interested in meeting blacks (African, American, West Indian including Rastas) and fair to dark skinned PRs, Dominicans, Arabs and Brazilians for fun and friendship. Must be top, hung 8+, clean, straight looking/acting, discreet, able to keep an erection with condom on. Age/height unimportant. No bottoms, fats, collect or j/o calls, solicitors or hustlers. NYC residents or visitors to this area only. Call Lou, 718-271-0832, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. or leave mess. (38)

BM seeks BM, 25-35, for fun and excitement. Let's hang out. Troy. ♀ 3443. (39)

Puerto Rican, 51, 5'7", 180#, brown skin, hot, horny, submissive. Looking for top black men, with huge cocks, to please them. Write to: Emilio Cruz, Box 1574, Bronx, NY 10451-1574. (35)

You down with O.P.P.? BiBM, 24, 6', 160#, seeks funky-fresh B-boys 18-25 to chill with. Write Box 20983, NYC, 10129-0009. Pease. (35)

GBM, 32, 5'7", 187, HIV+, Cancerian, seeks tall hairy GWM for relationship. No additions. Leos, Tauruses A+. Raymond. ♀ 3444. (39)

Muscular, hard runner's build, versatile, HIV+, hot, hung, smooth, upbeat, professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoys outdoors, fitness, arts, work, romance, humor, travel seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited, GBM, 30-48, any location. Share best of country and city. Fun/friendship, maybe relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (36)

Attractive white male, 33, 6'3", 175 lbs. professional, seeks black guy, independent, good-looking, creative and a real communicator, available for friendship and dating. ♀ 3099. ♀ 150. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Black male, 40, 6', 175#, muscular, athletic, healthy and inexperienced. Seeks masculine top stud for mutually satisfying meetings, possible relationship. Box 94189, Cleveland, OH 44114. (36)

GBM, 28, 5'10", 160, HIV+, masculine, attractive. Looking to meet other masculine black or Spanish men who are HIV+ for friendship, romance and hot sex. Respond with letter and photo. ♀ 170. (36)

BM, 27, Scott, seeks Latins, PR, Arabs, BM in Cleveland area. ♀ 3308. (38)

Attractive BM, 25, seeks gay lover. DeWayne Guynes #179-432, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Educated BGM seeking same. J.W.D., 1629 Riverside Dr. #29, Tulsa, OK 74119. (37)

GBM seeks other men in Tulsa area for romantic times. Masculine, tall, thin, handsome. Caesar. ♀ 3456. (39)

Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—PA

BM, 32, 5'9", 170, light brown, seeks black men ages 25-35, non-smoker, must be a man, no feds, no drugs, no games. Be romantic, caring, honest and real. No feds, no sugar daddys-just straight up about us.

♀ 3365. ♀ 172. (38)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SD

GWM, 41, HIV-, seeks black men of all ages for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TN

GWM, 47, looking for hung topman for playmate. Race unimportant. Honesty is. Carl Cannady, 414A E. Old Hickory Blvd., Madison, TN 37115. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

GBM, 5'11", 185 lbs., 38, clean-cut, moustache, homebody, HIV-. I'm into reading and working out. Seeking monogamous relationship. No games. ♀ 3383. (39)

GWM, blonde, blue, bottom, 5'10", 188 lbs., 38, looks younger. Seeking any race slim top-man; bi ok. Write with photo to Boxholder, Box 90008, San Antonio, TX 78209-9008. (41)

Houston BM, 38, seeking African-American males, 18-40 who are very much into bodybuilding with huge muscle-bound bodies. ♀ 3410. (39)

Looking for a hot "man" of color with the best looking masculine round smooth "man" butt out there and a hot pair of legs to go along with it. Bow legs a plus! I am attractive WM, hairy, hot and hung, with runner's legs. Box 7415, Dallas, TX 76209. (38)

GBM, 5'10", 190, brown complexion, wear glasses, dark haircut, likes to party at home, seeks to meet couples for fun. Clark. ♀ 3445. (39)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GBM, 31, 5'10", 165#, goodlooking, very masculine, professional, traveled. Fit homeboy-ish, well endowed, part Latin, seeks built, straight appearing, hot-looking, young macho Hispanic, ethnic or BM. Relationship or friend. Find love, get nasty, romp or hang. Photo for reply. Box 78151, Seattle, WA 98178. (37)

HIV+ and black? 46 y/o bearded man would like to hear from you. Avid reader and gardener, HIV+, quiet, considerate. Appreciate solid values, good mind, generous heart, and sense of humor. You? Any geographic area. Respond: 1202 E. Pike St. #738, Seattle, WA 98122. (37)



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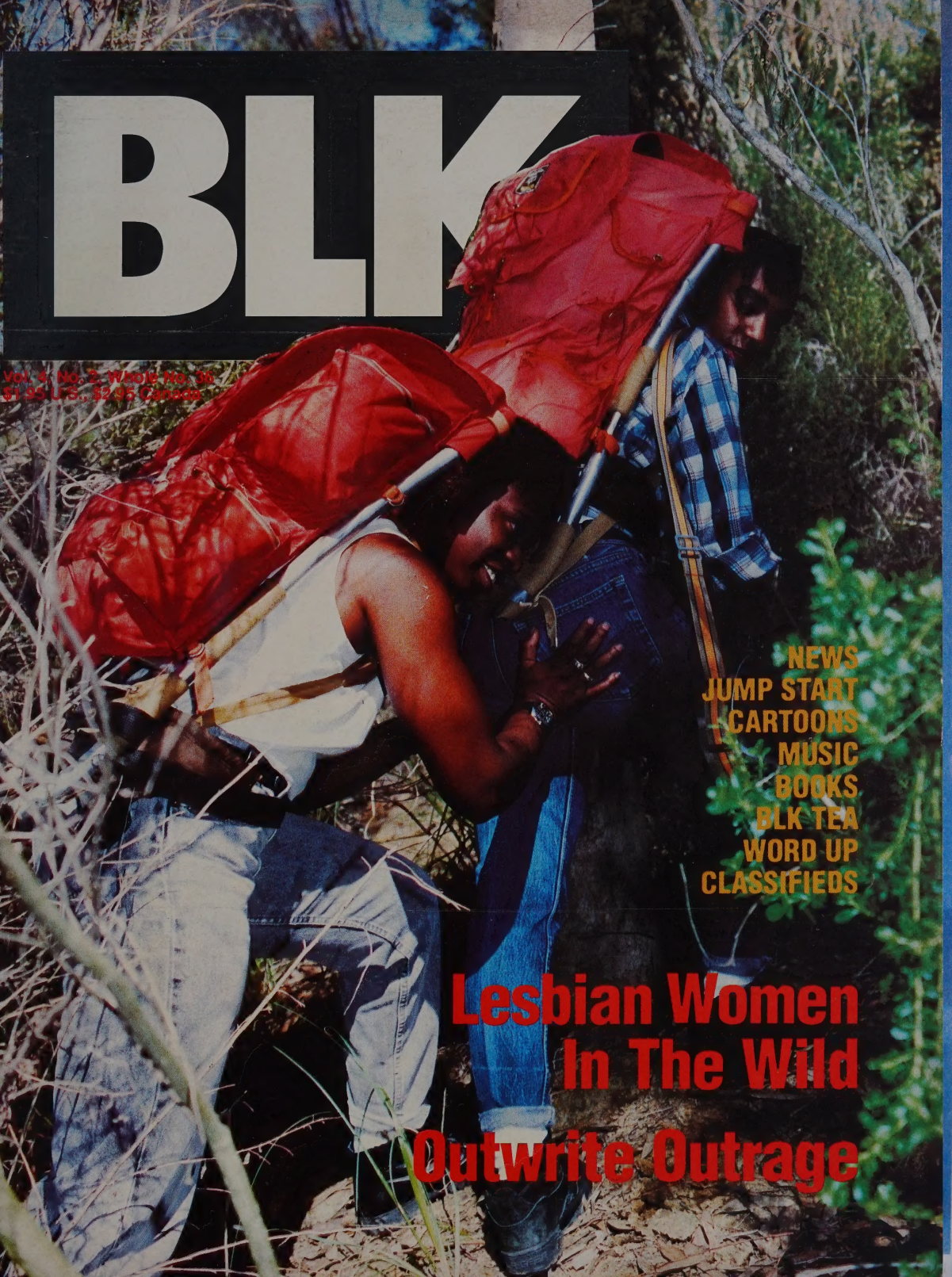
Call (213) 953-7074.

Asians & Pacific Islanders may call (213) 680-1066.

All calls are strictly confidential.

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BLK

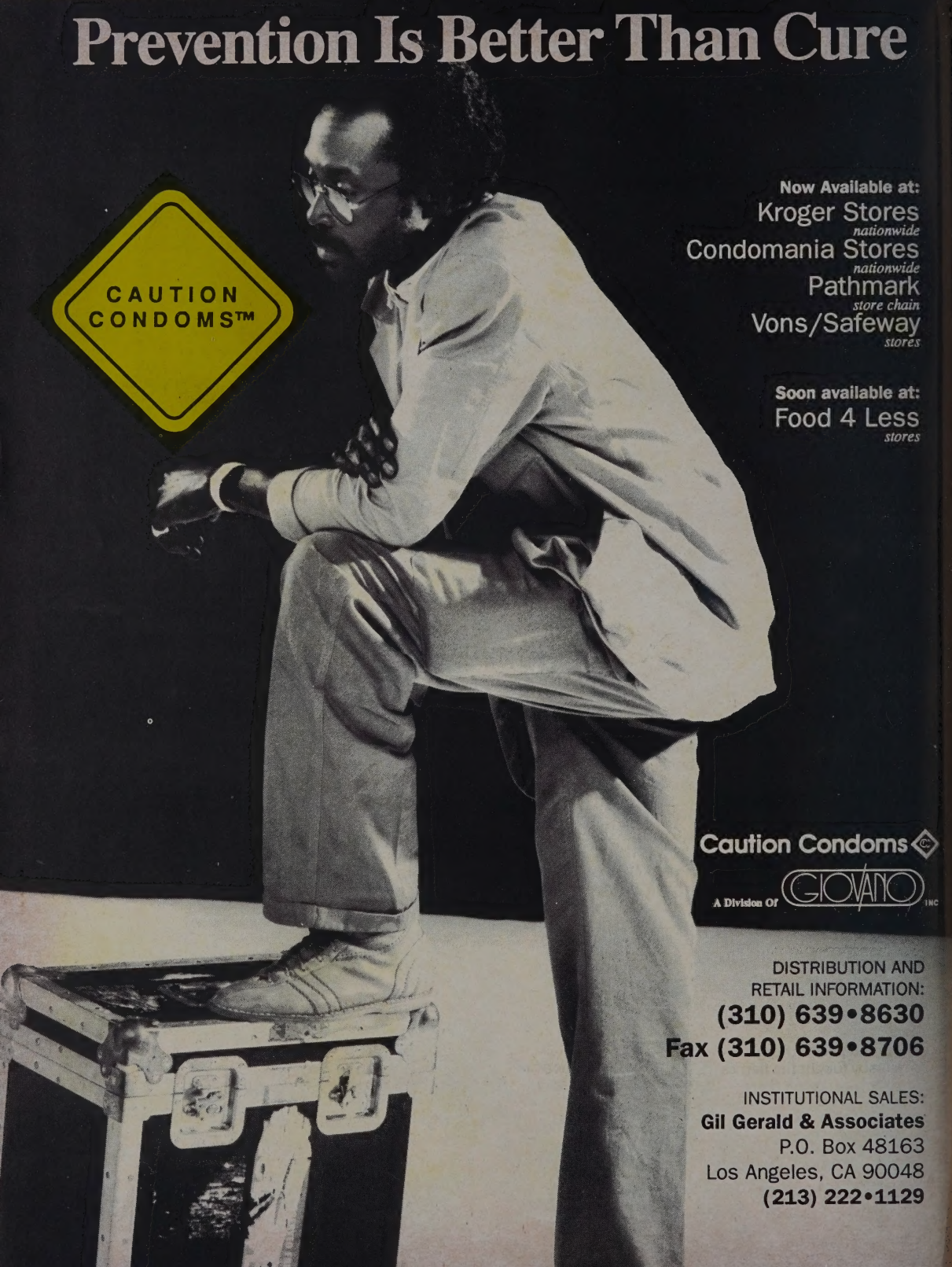
A photograph of two Black hikers in a wooded area. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a white tank top and blue jeans, carrying a large red backpack. The hiker in the background is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and blue jeans, also carrying a large red backpack. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera.

Vol. 4, No. 2, Whole No. 8
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NEWS
JUMP START
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CLASSIFIEDS

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JUMP START

BY L. LLOYD JORDAN



If "between a rock and a hard place" is the traditional venue assigned blacks who start their own businesses, we have never been more acutely aware of that than now.

BLK—owned by, operated by and intended for black lesbians and gay men seems multiply cursed. Just a few weeks before L.A.'s civil unrest broke out, we were derailed by our own catastrophe, when publisher and editor Alan Bell was seriously injured in a head-on car collision 60 miles south of Los Angeles.

Pinned in a burning car, passersby fought the flames by throwing dirt on the vehicle until emergency crews arrived. Using that can opener for cars called the "jaws of life," Bell was freed from his totalled vehicle and airlifted to a nearby

hospital.

While Bell sustained multiple abrasions, broken bones in an arm and both legs, contusions, heavy blood loss and nearly 15 hours of surgery, he survived what paramedics conceded was a close call. He was still hospitalized when Los Angeles erupted, but the conflagration prevented our mostly volunteer staff from coming into his neighborhood to work and diverted the energy of several into relief efforts.

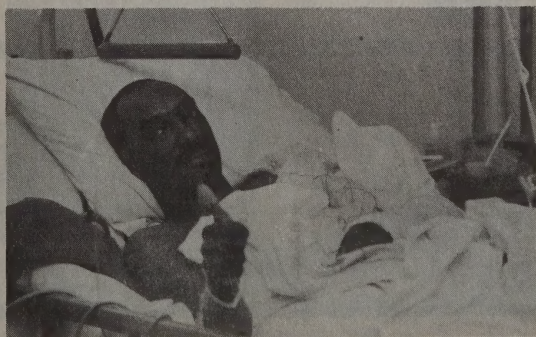
The accident comes at a propitious time for BLK. America's most widely circulated black lesbian and gay magazine had recently enlarged, gone glossy and moved to paid newsstand sales. Two steps forward, and now one step back.

Publication of BLK will follow an irregular schedule until a new editor can be found to replace Bell, whose limited mobility and long rehabilitation now make it impossible for him to edit the magazine.

The editors of our other magazines, *Black Lace*, an erotic magazine for black lesbians; *Kuumba*, a poetry

journal for black lesbians and gay men; and the just introduced *BLACKfire*, an erotic magazine for black gay men, do not anticipate interruption of their regular publishing schedules.

L.A. will recover and so will BLK. And if it's true that it's darkest just before the dawn, BLK is in for one hell of a year.



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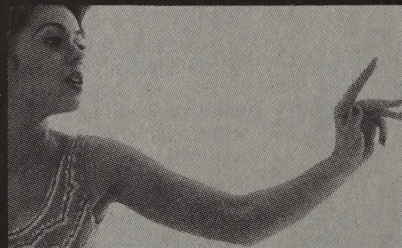


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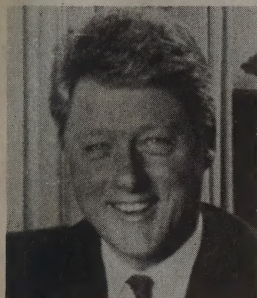
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WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER



Bill Clinton

HOW QUICKLY WE FORGET

White House hopeful Bill Clinton certainly scored with the Southern California lesbian and gay community when he headlined the Palace in Hollywood May 18, shaking many hands and collecting bucco dollars.

Since Ross Perot stumbled in his May 29 interview with Barbara Walters saying that our folks were not welcome in his cabinet, Clinton remains the candidate of choice in the lesbian and gay community.

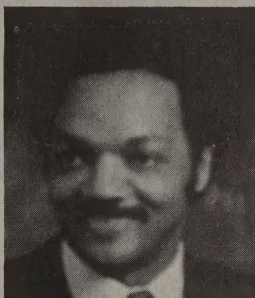
Still I have been most than a little pissed hearing over and over how Clinton was the first major presidential candidate to appear at a lesbian and gay rights fundraiser.

Excuse me.

Was not Jessie Jackson a major candidate for President of these United States in 1984 and 1988? And did not he appear at lesbian and gay fundraisers all over the country, including one at Southern California's own Catch One?

Oh, I got it.

Clinton is the first *white*,



Jessie Jackson

i.e., legitimate, candidate to topline a lesbian and gay fundraiser.

BLACK PENISES CREATE CONTROVERSY

An exhibition of photos of nude African men has black folks up in arms in Johannesburg.

Although a published white penis or naked breast typically incurs the wrath of the country's official censors, black nudity has been viewed as "traditional" and therefore acceptable for public display.

But these customs are now being challenged.

The furor arose when Steve Hilton-Barber displayed full frontal photographs of 200 black youths undergoing a ritual circumcision ceremony. The men ranged in age from 8 to 28.

"I am disgusted and appalled. If these were whites, it would not have happened," Dr. Xijekana Mhlanga wrote in a letter to a local newspaper. "Are we, black people, less of human beings?"

Other blacks have denounced the exhibit as cultural imperialism, por-

traying blacks as barbaric, naked savages.

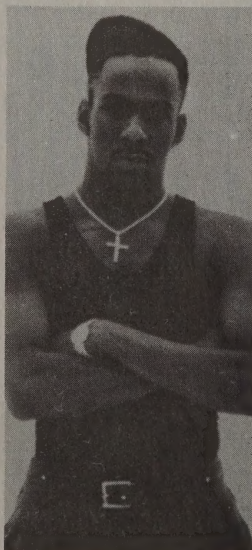
Predictably, there are no blacks on the 120-member South African censorship panel, which scrutinizes movies, videos and publications. Apparently, the blacker the youths, the greater the lengths they may go to.

FREUDIAN SLIP, OR SNEAKING ONE IN

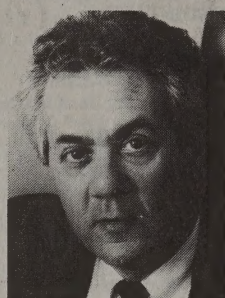
Walter Scott's question and answer column, which appears in *Parade Magazine*, posed the following query in its July 14, 1991 issue:

"Singer Whitney Houston—who's the No. 1 man in her life: Eddie Murphy, Robyn Crawford, Randall Cunningham or Bobby Brown?"

Crawford, of course, is



Bobby Brown



Barney Frank

not a man, but Houston's longtime female friend.

The answer to the question, by the way—at least according to *Parade Magazine*—is Bobby Brown.

OFFICIAL RACISM, OFFICIAL HOMOPHOBIA

When openly gay Congressman Barney Frank was in Southern California recently, he took time to make some comments about racism and homophobia to BLK.

"This society is *more* racist in fact than it is officially and *less* homophobic in fact than it is officially," said the Democrat from Massachusetts.

"There are more straight people who disapprove of gay men and lesbians than disapprove of people of color. People will tell you it's wrong to be gay. They won't tell you it's wrong to be black. On the other hand, they are more likely to be frightened of and want to avoid blacks than gay people...I think most people in this country are not homophobic, but they think they are supposed to be."

BLK MAIL

THE SUMMER OF OUR (DISCO)TENT

Dear Editor:

Reading "Summer Sues, Scoffs at Scurrilous Slams" (BLK, Dec. 1991), I must say I came away feeling very disappointed and wondering if the gay community was ever going to grow up.

I was not present at any of the concerts where the "alleged" remarks were made, and I don't know whether she is lying or not, but I do know that what was allegedly said does not affect my opinion of my self or my sexuality.

Now, while I would not support anyone who would make such remarks, I would hope and trust that I would be a man and rise above the bitchy queen mentality as demonstrated by some of our gay brothers

(particularly the gay press).

Guys, grow up and put this whole situation behind us. We are behaving like little silly children instead of the real men we were meant to be.

While I am sure there are many gays out there who will carry this grudge to their graves, we need to focus our attention on real issues that matter, namely ourselves.

I can't think of any other group of people that treat each other as badly as we do, and now this evil hatred is being directed at a lady who gave us years of love through her music.

I am sure that many of us have experienced the ignorance of prejudice by the very people we love the most. However, once differences are put aside, healing begins and we get back to taking care of business.

Let's not let our emotions get in the way here. Let's rise up above petty allegations, and work through this and put it behind us. What goes around comes around.

R. E. Nelson
Pasadena, Calif.

PATTI LABELLE: EVERYONE'S FAVORITE DIVA

Dear Editor:

I was very pleased with the cover story/interview of Patti LaBelle (BLK, Dec. 1991), one of America's foremost divas, or as I would put it "the diva of divas." Your in-depth interview with Patti just confirms by love for this beautiful lady.

Patti is one of the most giving human beings that I have ever seen. Her attitude toward her gay audience—and people in general—is just exceptional. I've been following Miss LaBelle now for over 15 years, and I will remain in her corner forever.

Being a gay male of color, it is rewarding when I can sit down with my favorite magazine and read about my favorite diva. It is truly wonderful.

David Flot
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Editor:

I recently received issue #34 and I wanted to let you know how pleased I am with the new format. The new cover will definitely reduce the amount of ink I get on my fingers!

As always, Patti LaBelle came across as a very warm and caring person. I wish her the best now and always. God gave her more

than a beautiful voice, and she shares it.

Would it really make a difference if Magic Johnson confessed to having sex with men instead of women? Would the AIDS virus attack him any differently? I think he was very courageous to confess on national TV. Hopefully, with Magic involved we will get the president to spend more on research and the kids to protect themselves during sex.

Keep up the good work! Your publication is very informative.

Louis Rodriguez
Corona-Elmhurst, N.Y.

COLORBLIND BLACK GAY LEADERS

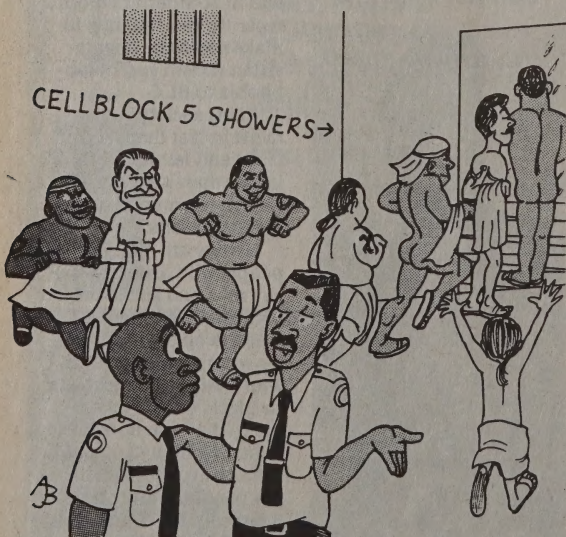
Dear Editor:

Here are the "black" gay leaders and talents who have shared the incomparable experience of loving another black man?

I believe a man has the right to love whomever or whatever he happens to fall in love with—even if he falls in love with an inflatable doll. Still, I find it disturbing that so many "visible" black gay leaders and talents are not sharing their love with us black men.

Last week, my co-worker told me that he likes Clarence Thomas because Thomas has a white wife. He said that meant Thomas wasn't angry or threatening. Is this a criterion we are using to choose our black gay leadership?

In his interview, Steven Corbin (BLK, Jan. 1992) serves us eight pages of "blackness" before he bombs us with that cliché: "I don't have types." He



"What do you mean 'Where's Tyson'? I had him escorted to the showers. Why?"

(like so many of the men in BWMT/MACT) is "one of those rare (?) people who have no racial preference."

Is "blackness" merely a political fad to these "colorblind" black gay leaders? Mr. Corbin, what subliminal messages are we getting when we see the covers of *Edge* and *Frontiers* (telling us we "should want this, this is hot, this is the superior beauty example," etc.), then we see you and other "colorblind" black gay leaders with the "prizes?" You can't blame that white man for believing that his white skin was a status symbol!

Michael Jackson isn't the only black public figure sending contradictory messages.

Who cares if white magazines place an occasional token Negro with Caucoid features on its cover? Our black community has deeper issues—including the self-hatred Mr. Corbin discusses. Besides, if we (especially these visible "colorblind" black leaders) don't promote black men as soulmates, how can we expect others to? One day, I want to hear black gay leaders say "the blacker the berry, the sweeter the juice" or "I'm turned on by the texture of nappy hair!"

If love is where you find it, aren't the chances of a highly-visible black gay leader finding it in another black man pretty good?

Let "them" keep "their" *Edge* and *Frontiers*. Stop whining "because they won't let us play with them." If we want something done, we've got to do it ourselves. There's enough black publications for the total, self-determined, self-defined black man. We don't have to be limited to playing someone else's exotic diversions or tokens. Why should "they" place an educated, literate black

man with black features and dreadlocks on "their" cover?

I agree with Mr. Corbin that in this competitive world, nobody gives you anything. So let's together and channel our talents toward a strong competitive base—not meaningless tokens. Use the Japanese as examples.

J.B.
Oakland, Calif.

THE EXCLUSION OF POMO-AFRO-HOMOS

Dear Editor:

The exclusion of Pomo-Afro-Homos from the National Black Theater Festival ["Young, Gifted and Fierce," BLK, Aug. 1991] is the kind of high-handed, myopic behavior, which assures that we as a people remain in a kind of permanent adolescence. So much for diversity and "multiculturalism."

The African-American community, as well as Africans in general, have been as quick as any other to homogenize itself into the monolithic value system of the Judeo-Christian-Muslim west, based on consumerism and moral hypocrisy. In the great rush to be accepted, many African-Americans have picked up the intolerant baggage of our former conquerors, and continue to cling to it, in spite of the fact that the culture from which it stems is in a shambles.

To paraphrase Essex Hemphill, we are *all* needed at the table. All our brilliance, wisdom, courage and beauty is essential if we are to make a livable world out of these ruins. Not a new world in which a white male heterosexual ruling class is replaced by a black male heterosexual one.

Sterling Houston
San Antonio, Tex.

BLK

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 4, No. 2, Whole No. 36

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ON THE COVER: Lisa Mitchell (left) and Titia Ingram.
Photo by Bruce Hunt.

BLK PEOPLE

BY MICHAEL TAYLOR

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.

Melvin Dixon, Cary Alan Johnson, Cheryl Dunye, Kendall Thomas and BLK's own Alycee J. Lane were featured at the fifth annual Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference held this year at Rutgers University.

WASHINGTON AIDS activist Chauncey Lyles was profiled in the *Washington Blade*.

DALLAS Tiffany Bonet of Winston-Salem, N.C. was crowned Miss Gay America 1992 in ceremonies held at the Majestic Theatre. She had been previously crowned Miss Gay Mideast 1992. Miss Amazing Texas, who had previously won Miss Gay Texas, came in fifth.

CHICAGO Drag person Joan JettBlakk was profiled in the *Advocate* by Thing editor and publisher Robert Ford.

SAN FRANCISCO Rupert Kinnard has become *Out/Look's* new art director.

LONG BEACH, Calif. L.A. AIDS chief Phill Wilson spoke on "HIV in the '90s" at the city's Early Intervention Project.

AUSTIN Attorney Patricia Presley has joined the staff of the Texas Human Rights Foundation as legal coordinator.

COLUMBUS Dr. Marjorie Hill, head of New York's Office for the Gay and Lesbian Community, keynoted the Stonewall Union's 10th annual Awards Dinner.

WASHINGTON Willie Ninja, featured in *Paris Is Burning*, appeared at the AIDS benefit, "A Vote

Santé."

SAN FRANCISCO Editor and Publisher Barbara Smith spoke on "Women of Color 1992: The Challenges of Movement Building" at San Francisco State University.

WASHINGTON Christopher Bates has been named director of the D.C. Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Education Consortium.

LOS ANGELES Jamaica Kincaid, author of *Annie John* and *Lucy*, read from her works at the Gallery Theatre in Barnsdall Art Park.

LOS ANGELES Sydney La Rose appeared as Billie Holliday in "Uptown Cabaret '92" a talent show and fundraiser for the Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

VENICE Playwright and actress Regina Taylor unveiled two new plays, *Watermelon Rinds* and *Mad-tracks* at a reading presented by Beyond Baroque.

VENICE Michelle T. Clinton will conduct a multicultural poetry workshop for women while Akilah Nayo Oliver will teach urban multicultural performance art at Beyond Baroque April through June.

CHICAGO Teddy Smith served spirits along with a fervent smile at AA Meat Market's 2nd Anniversary Party.

LOS ANGELES Ayofemi Stowe Folayan teaches "Writing As A Healing Art" at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center this spring.

NEW YORK Marlon Riggs was the recipient of the

American Film Institutes's Maya Deree Award for Independent Film and Video Artists.

NEW YORK Artist Christopher Estridge showcased his art-in-progress entitled "Brainless Palaver" at the Amos Eno Gallery.

NEW YORK Poet Donald Woods and writer Roy Gonzales shared selections of their works at a reading "In Our Own Write," at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

NEW YORK Keith Antar Mason was part of the centerpiece at Dance Theater Workshop's *Winter Events in Torn Language/Dialogue of Doubt*.

NEW YORK Vega contributed readings from *A Warm December* at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Jacquie Bishop, director of Mama Doesn't Know Productions, shared the bill. He will also read at A Different Light Bookstore.

LOS ANGELES Vaginal Creme Davis entertained at the Spew 2 Convention followed by dancing to music spun by Chicago DJs Robert Ford and Trent Adkins, both of *Thing* magazine.

BEVERLY HILLS Whoopi Goldberg has made peace with anti-apartheid activists, allowing her to star in the filmization of *Sarafina*, to be shot in South Africa later this year.

NEW YORK Linda Villarsa, *Essence* senior editor was featured at a recent event titled "Good Fortune" focusing on groundbreaking writers and their media subjects.

NEW YORK Hillary Kay,

singer, songwriter and guitarist of folk rock reggae, folk rocked the Speakeasy with her sound.

SAN FRANCISCO Caroline Streeter is one of two characters in *Joystick Blues*, a video recently screened at the Eye Gallery.

NEW YORK Alvin Cameron, singer, keyboardist and composer dispensed his mode of blues ballads and gospel at the Outmusic Coffehouse.

NEW YORK Blackberri and M-Thang, comprised of Gary Hensley and Eric Perez, performed at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center recently.

PHILADELPHIA Jesse Milan has been elected president of the board of directors of Action AIDS.

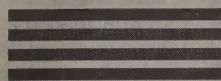
ANNAPOLIS Lori Harris was featured in the We Are Everywhere section of the *Washington Blade*.

SAN FRANCISCO Ken Dixon has been added to *Out/Look* magazine's editorial board.

WASHINGTON Marlon Riggs's recent *Color Adjustment: Blacks in Prime Time* was screened at the American Film Institute in the Kennedy Center

SANTA MONICA Performing artists Colette Jackson and Mario Gardner were recently awarded \$1000 fellowships by the National Fund for Lesbian and Gay Artists.

SAN FRANCISCO Barbara Smith lectured recently on "Women of Color: The Challenges of Movement Building" at San Francisco State University.



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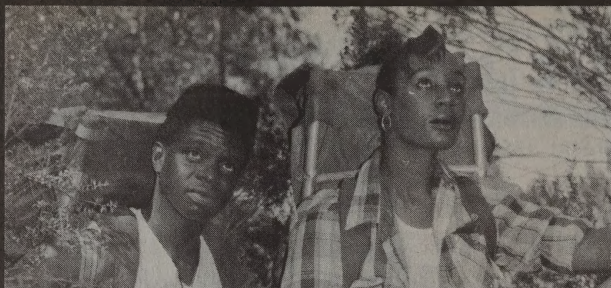
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Models Lisa Mitchell (left) and Titia Ingram

Black Lesbian Women In The Wild

By Nina Roberts

Estelle often finds herself abandoning human habitats and heading into the countryside for a campfire and a canopy of stars. She loves to explore the untamed land around her. She enjoys the solitude, yet quite often joins friends as they hike through the Great Smokies of the Appalachian Mountain Range (East Coast). Estelle, a black lesbian from Charlotte, North Carolina, says that the wilderness has "been in her blood" for about four years now. "There's nothing like a campfire lunch among the pines," brags Estelle, "I only wish I could get my African-American sisters to explore the trails with me." Hear that? Black beauty beckons us, invites us into wilderland to kindle hot, secret fires and to taste sweet water.

Estelle informs me that nowadays she shares her outdoor experiences with no one or with white women friends. She adds that she feels refreshed and invigorated, however, after spending time in a natural environment no matter who she is with.

The world outdoors is exciting, inspiring and constantly changing. It is a great reservoir of truth and constancy. The charm and beauty of the undefiled earth is like a magnet, appealing to people of all backgrounds. Thousands of people pour into the woods each weekend and on vacations, looking for something special, something they cannot find



at home.

More and more women are beginning to enjoy the many benefits of outdoor living. Activities such as hiking, backpacking, camping, canoeing, rockclimbing, and the like all build upon one another, instilling an appreciation for the environment while contributing to a lifetime of memories.

No one can list all the reasons that women have for going outside, but frequently it is to escape the pressures of their daily lives. Many seek excitement in outdoor adventure, some seek discovery in bird watching, or gliding across the lake in a canoe. Some women just want to relax; others want to push themselves with a greater challenge than they've ever faced.

Another valuable benefit of outdoor activity is the opportunity for spiritual enrichment and growth. The outdoor experience may occur in any of a variety of settings, from city parks to pristine wilderness. Spiritual communion, particularly in terms of solitude, often comes through being receptive to nature's sights, sounds and smells. Every visit will be different, new spirits will dance with you, play with you each time. The varying textures and tones of nature influence the type and intensity of emotional and psychological experience of each woman.

As a woman of color and professional in the field of outdoor recreation,

my interest in the participation of women outdoors has evolved from graduate research studies at the University of Maryland at College Park. I have been an educator and leader for outdoor programs for twelve years, which primarily consisted of mixed-gender groups and mostly white participants.

Over the years my experience, research, and networking with other professionals and guides has confirmed my observation that although more and more women are enjoying the outdoors there are very few black women (and other women of color) participating in outdoor activities. During a summer (1991) internship with Woodswomen in Minneapolis (worldwide adventure travel for women of all ages), I learned that practitioners with 20 years experience observe that approximately 50 percent of the women who participate in all-women's groups are lesbians, and the percentage of black women in general is very low.

I had an opportunity to speak with several black lesbians from the Washington, D.C., area about their thoughts regarding outdoor adventures. "Black women don't get any push or motivational force in this direction," says Pam Rigby, a Research Assistant (Washington D.C.). "It's not so much a lack of interest in black

women, but since we don't get exposure to these activities growing up, we are not as aware of the opportunities." Pam, 33, enjoys hiking, traveling, and photography.

Although she doesn't participate that often in outdoor activities, Pam mentions that she would love to try white-water rafting where everyone paddles. "I like the idea of excitement and challenge in a more controlled activity; plus I like having a guide in the raft because if I lose control someone is there to take over!"

She adds that black lesbians use different methods to release stress and enjoy themselves. Through outdoor experiences, African-American women can enhance their pride in themselves as individuals and as women. Adventure activities can enhance self-confidence, which in turn enlarges a woman's concept of the world. Life goes on outside the neighborhood and beyond her family.

Kathy Billingslea grew up in West Point, Ga. She was a physical education major in college when she lived in the South and, as an avid outdoor enthusiast, she says it was easier to participate in adventure activities because she knew people with the same interests. At 32, Kathy enjoys tennis, outdoor barbecues, fishing, and camping. "I find that as I've traveled (and now live) further north on the east coast, people don't know how to relax. People

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(Adventure for women of all ages)
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(Trips for women over 30)
1308 Sherman Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
708-864-4700

Adventures for Women
Box 515
Montvale, NJ 07645

Wanderwomen
(A lesbian hiking group)
6800 Red Top Rd.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-270-4817

Hawk, I'm Your Sister
Box 9109
Santa Fe, NM 87504
505-984-2268

Womentrek
1411 Olive Way
Box 20643
206-325-4772

grow accustomed to a city life style and just don't enjoy the benefits of a secluded natural environment."

When asked about some of the ways in which black lesbians might become involved, Kathy's and Pam's responses were similar. Said Kathy, "Because of the continued homophobia and perception of racial stereotypes, black lesbians will be more likely to participate through sponsorship of a group or social club or other support system." Pam adds, "Begin with low key activities. Make all possible options and opportunities available—don't push, but encourage

gently." Stereotypes can be a problem if not handled properly: "If groups and individuals are more sensitive to cultural differences, then women of color will be attracted to the outdoors on a more positive level. Stereotypes, however, although very real, are exaggerated. If black women really want to try these activities they will," asserts Kathy.

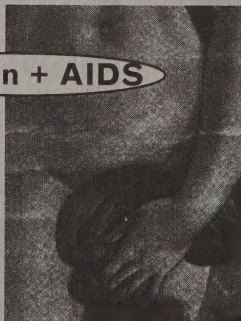
In order to survive, women of color have become masters in the art of being bicultural. Beverly Smith (1983), in her article *Some Thoughts on Racism* writes, "there is a lot of propaganda in this culture for the normality of the rightness of whiteness" According

to Smith, generations of exposure to the socially accepted norms of "whiteness" have made it virtually impossible for women of color not to adopt specific behaviors, i.e., standards of beauty, language and mannerisms associated with white culture that would allow them to survive.

So what is the relationship of this to outdoor activities? Zelda Lockhart, a black lesbian and outstanding poet from Norfolk, Va., says "I don't think that black women aren't aware of outdoor activities, it's just that black women may think it's a white thing. They seem to be socialized to believe that

participating in adventure outdoors is a white person's thing to do; it's not a white thing, it's a life thing."

Zelda is the Past-President of the board of directors of Women's Wilderness Network (WWN) in Virginia. She has been participating in outdoor activities for three years now. She went on her first camping trip with WWN and admits that she was scared at first. "Adventure activities make you brave no matter what your level," she proclaims, "outdoor successes make you feel strong and courageous. They make you reach out of your everyday life, and expand your day to day



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routine."

Black lesbians share a unique culture. According to Dr. Colston Ladd, Professor at Old Dominion University, culture is the integration of knowledge, beliefs, customs, traditions, values, and laws. Dr. Ladd states that

have done these activities, to aggressively encourage these women to try certain outdoor pursuits, and this could possibly get them interested. Black lesbians need to feel they are not the only black person participating."

Diane continues to tell



the leisure service professional of tomorrow, and hence outdoor educators, will have to effectively translate culture into leisure and perform the role of facilitator in order to truly meet the needs of diverse cultures. "In order to have dignity in difference, professionals must have a foundation of the community first before reaching out to them."

Just how different are the needs of African-American lesbians? "I don't think most black lesbians look to or seek out adventure in their lives," says Diane, 33, of Maryland, "there is a need for encouragement from other women of color who

me about her recent purchase of a new bike. "I know I must do for myself. Although most of my friends don't have bikes I learned that it's okay to be an individual, and biking is something I really enjoy." She indicated interest in wanting to try such "riskier" activities as rockclimbing and white water rafting someday.

Zelda Lockhart feels that African-American lesbians must deal with this internally. "I don't pay any attention to color differences," she states. "It's being with women and enjoying the experience that matters. It bothers me to hear other black women saying 'they'

aren't providing for us. Who is 'they'? White women or wilderness/outdoor organizations?" Zelda believes that black women need to have someone else "do it first" so then there will be another black person there to pave the way.

In a strong, confident voice, Zelda communicates that our conversation has aroused a new spirit in her to reach out to sisters of color. Zelda will, she says, work towards creating an adjunct position which will be responsible for outreach to women of color.

In general, people of color are largely under-represented in leisure research in the wilderness for several reasons. Predominantly urban residence is one. Another is the omission of minorities from surveys and interviews in sufficient numbers for detailed statistical and behavioral analysis (Hutchinson, 1988). Recreation researcher Ray Hutchinson explains that contemporary leisure research has bypassed blacks and other minority populations in the United States because of (a) lack of specificity given to definitions of "race" and "ethnicity," (b) the lack of published research in race and ethnic relations, and (c) the lack of attention given to the activities of other ethnic groups.

Each woman I interviewed mentioned economics as a factor for

participation. Illustrating this determinant, Kathy Billingslea (Columbia, Md.) says "if black women are not in a double income type family, participation in outdoor programs becomes even more difficult. Also, for many black lesbians living in the inner city and who don't have a car, their whole world revolves around the city or a bus route. If they learn about activities happening in the suburbs or somewhere in the wilderness, some women need to rely on friends for transportation, and many won't ask."

Aida Hurtado has documented that women of color bear more economic burdens than any other group in this country (Hurtado, 1989). The statistics are amazing. Women of color are more likely than white women to maintain single-parent households (44 percent of black women, 23 percent of Latina women, and 23 percent of Native American women, compared to 13 percent of white women).

Furthermore, women of color are more likely to be heads of households living in poverty (52 percent of black households, and 53 percent of Latino households, compared to 27 percent of white households), and more likely to have larger families (40 percent of black women, 60 percent Latina women, but only 20 percent of white women had four or more people to support). In addition, teenage mothers are more



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likely to be black women than white women (58 percent black as compared to 13 percent white). The facts are startling. "White women also suffer

however, the outdoors provides a rich assortment of possibilities that will never be discovered unless a risk is taken. Ethnic and cultural differences cannot



economically, but their economic situation is not as dire as that of women of color."

The economy affects everyone differently. Although the above statistics aren't lying, there is a population of black women who live within solid financial existence and can afford to participate in a variety of recreational activities. How exactly does class structure fit into participation in the outdoors? Are black women who are more self-sufficient more likely to participate in a canoe expedition or hiking adventure, for instance, than black women who have less income? This doesn't seem to embrace much of the mystery.

So, if you treat the dollar bill right it multiplies, and if you don't it disappears. How can we build bridges that don't cost any money? There is no magic formula,

be ignored. People must have an understanding that it is very likely on some level that a lesbian of color will look to a source of comfort and/or nurturing that only her community can offer. How can this community be strengthened through the benefits of outdoor pursuit?

For the woman engaged in outdoor adventure there is the sensation of acquiring a more intimate view of one's strengths, weaknesses and character. That's an experience that no amount of money can equal.

Denise Mitten, executive director of Woodswomen (Minneapolis) states that during the first year of their Women and Kids program (canoeing, camping and rockclimbing), about 85 percent of their participants were a mixture of African-American, Latino, or

Native American. "A large factor in the success of this program is the effective and valuable outreach to families who are socially and economically disadvantaged," affirms Denise, "unfortunately, during our second year, this diverse participation decreased to about 50 percent as our budget did not allow for the same pace and level of outreach as we would have liked."

Established in 1977, Woodswomen is the oldest and largest women's adventure travel company and the quality of their programs is evident in their philosophy. The trips are fun, safe, environmentally sensitive, educational, and empowering. Their guides

are highly skilled women who have intensive training in group dynamics. Woodswomen guides are experienced leaders, outdoor educators, and experts on safety who are committed to supporting and meeting the needs of each individual.

Denise Mitten mentions "as part of our guide network, our recruiting aspect will work to include black women in the Leadership Training. This in turn will increase the role models for black women who participate, and conceivably increase involvement of black women as a whole."

Once African-American lesbians experience an activity in the outdoors, the participation will



"Do you think there's any possibility that Thing is lesbian?"

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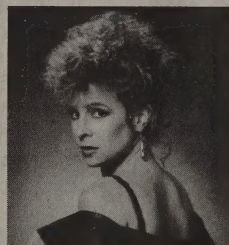


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probably increase. We cannot expect women from inner cities, who have had only minimal exposure to wilderness through the media, to feel good about the lacy network of green that is between them and the sun unless there is sufficient time to interact with the area, develop an enjoyable relationship with the outdoors, and explore.

A computer analyst, Lesley works with volunteer services for the Black Lesbian Support Group (BLSG) in Washington, D.C. She enjoys driving through National Parks and scenic thoroughways.

In terms of increasing involvement of black lesbians, "attracting more women of color on a social basis may be a factor," Lesley notes. Similarly Diane (a member of BLSG) suggests that "advertising and marketing do not use black women in photographs or commercials, and this hurts the promotion of outdoor activities." Denise Mitten, of Woodswomen, supplements this statement by saying "photos are very discriminatory in both magazines and brochures; this is a change that needs to happen in order to fairly represent that the outdoors is a place for all people."

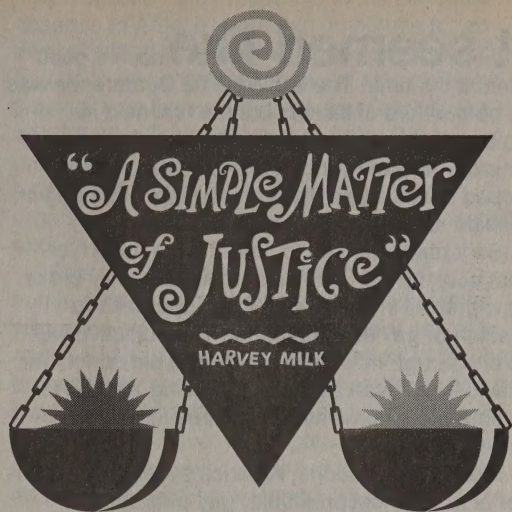
Leisure patterns in the outdoors for black women are difficult to forecast. Any planning initiatives on the part of professionals must be undertaken against unique constraints

faced by black women. The outdoors has become a vital force in the lives of millions of people and increasing opportunities for people of color will call for cooperation and communication between individuals, community groups, and many different agencies—public and private. In an increasingly complex society, I believe that the task of creating and enhancing satisfying leisure environments and recreation opportunities is one of the most pressing issues in today's world.

Black lesbians have expressed positive emotions and values about the outdoors. There is a relationship between freedom and the wilderness which women of color, in general, can experience and share across cultures.

In ancient myth, a dryad was a tree goddess. Each dryad's life was bound up with that of her tree. Her hair of twigs grew upward and blossomed into the sky. Her skin was bark-brown. Her roots went deep into the earth, and her branches extended outward and entwined lovingly with those of her sister tree spirits. Lesbians of African America, the forest calls. It, too, is your home!

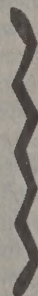
Nina Roberts is a lesbian woman of color, currently studying in the graduate program at the University of Maryland, College Park. She can be reached by mail at 9703 - 47th Pl., College Park, Md. 20740-1470.



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It seemed like such a good idea at the time. The OutWrite 92 Conference was to be the third of its kind but the first held in solemn Boston instead of amidst the literary anarchy of San Francisco, and its organizers hoped to assemble the largest, most gathering of lesbian and gay writers ever.

So it made sense: To offer a cash award for that book of 1991 which most successfully broke new ground or reflected a fresh approach to lesbian or gay subject matter. The objective was to encourage new talent or to prod old talent into new daring, even at the risk of being too raw to secure more conventional awards for aesthetic excellence.

Alyson Publications, America's most prestigious (or at least, most profitable) gay publishing company provided the incentive; \$1,000 for the first prize winner. The award would be publicized, screened and bestowed by the conference's sponsors, the Out/Look Foundation, to prevent any conflict of interest.

The prize money would be advertised as the Joseph Beam Award, named for the late Afrocentric gay writer whose anthology, *In the Life*, had brought to public attention a bevy of black gay male storytellers, essayists and poets. The award's name was meant both to honor and to attract the most innovative work of writers of color, although anybody could compete for the money. The Joseph Beam Award would be a win-win for everybody.

Then the nominations for the award were announced. None were African-American. And all hell broke loose.

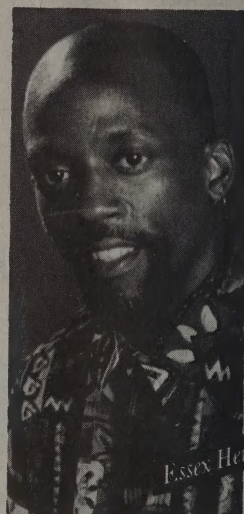
Later, Sasha Alyson would explain the genesis of the controversy; "It was my idea...I was looking over the things I had been most excited about having done [in publishing]. Five years ago we were doing more ground-breaking books than we are now...It was *In the Life* that typified what I thought needed to be done more often. So it seemed that Joe's name was a logical one to use in connection with that." Alyson added that it would be "a little awkward to name it after someone we had published." Beam's work had been published by ?

Alyson Publications then contacted Dorothy

OutWrite



Sasha Alyson



Essex Hemphill

Outrage

By L. Lloyd Jordan

.....

**BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS
TAKE CONTROL IN BOSTON**

Beam, the late author's mother, who declined to allow her late son's name to be used. She acted on the advice of Essex Hemphill who was then rooming at her home, having earlier that year completed the anthology, *Brother to Brother*, based on Beam's work-in-progress at his death.

In August 1991, Alyson asked Out/Look to administer and present the award. But Out/Look agreed to undertake the task only in November. Jeffrey Escoffier says that Out/Look contacted Mrs. Beam and assured her that Alyson Publications would have nothing to do with choosing the award nominees, whereupon she consented to the use of her son's name.

Escoffier admits that, due to preoccupation with the conference, the Out/Look Foundation only issued a press release on the award in December. The announcement of the Joseph Beam Memorial Award listed three criteria for consideration; originality of content, social impact and writing quality. Although a phone number was included in the release, nominations were not solicited from the public. It was explained that the award judges would be gay and lesbian activists, writers, booksellers and academics, but was silent about whether the judges had already been selected or if suggestions for judges were welcome.

In fact, Escoffier concedes that "due to time constraints the original nomination process relied upon an informal but conscientious survey of the works with significant impact that were published in 1991...the process set up to administer the award did fail to involve in a formal way the participation of black gay men." In fact, only seven books were deemed to qualify for the award by the "informal process," which included, by consultation, Out/Look Foundation boardmember, Michael Douglas-Liyr.

The seven books were hurriedly sent to the selected judges by Escoffier, only one of whom, Sabrina Sojourner of Washington, D.C., was African-American. The judges were told they could suggest other books for consideration but that time constraints might prevent inclusion. No additional books were added so five of the original seven were chosen as finalists. Four of the nominees were Anglos, one was a Chicana.

On March 5, Essex Hemphill called black gay poet Assotto Saint of New York when he received a list of the five finalists and

they discussed their response to the complete absence of African-American nominees for an award named after Beam, with whom both men had been close friends. Although Hemphill was leaving town the next day, he and Saint spoke with Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press publisher Barbara Smith, who shared their astonished anger. Saint called conference organizers and Escoffier and engaged in heated exchanges.

"Escoffier told me the books that were nominated and who the nominating committee was and I did not recognize any black person's name. We had a volatile conversation...I felt that process was one more [case of] emasculation of black gay men and I was not about to accept it. It has gone on forever in the gay community or in the black community, the issue of our invisibility and erasure, as Essex Hemphill puts it, and it is not acceptable in 1992. I let him know that under no circumstances was this award going to be given at OutWrite 92—I, speaking for Assotto Saint—if they had to carry me out to the Psychiatric Center or to [sounds like] Chino!"

Saint, Hemphill and Smith agreed that the issue of the award needed to be raised at the conference at a people of color caucus and a course of action determined. "I can't think of a solution," Smith told BLK prior to the conference. "There are people who know they're nominees for this award. Because it's almost impossible to earn a living as a writer in this country, withdrawing the award itself would really be detrimental."

But Saint was clear about what the criteria needed to be. "They are misappropriating the name of one of the icons in the black gay community, and we have so few...If you're going to name it after Joe Beam, it should preferably be given to an emerging black gay or black lesbian writer, because this was the community Joe was first and foremost concerned about, although he reached out to all communities."

Predictably, Sasha Alyson disagreed when he first heard about the controversy, "If the point is that we're using the name Joe Beam on an award which is not specifically a black gay male award, I don't agree with that. Any one person embodies a lot of different characteristics. In Joe Beam's case, he was black and gay...but he was also a pioneer, a

writer and an editor. We've chosen one of those, that is, his pioneering spirit, to represent in this award. I think that's a legitimate thing to do. The alternative, it seems to me, is that you're saying this award has to be named after a white person and that you can only name an award after a black person if it's specifically for black literature. And I think that's absurd."

Sabrina Sojourner defends the principle involved, "I believe that we have contributed enough to have a general award named for one of our own. That doesn't mean we shouldn't have an award which encourages people of color to publish. It doesn't have to be either-or. We have to be careful of ghettoizing ourselves." Yet she affirms that the process could have been and should be improved, "I think there probably were works that should have been included in the *initial* process...but I still have a question about whether there *is* a work [by an African-American], other than *In the Life*, which fits the category. The issue was, are you a first or are you part of an emerging body?"

But Barbara Smith said, "If you're conscious and you set up criteria that, by definition, exclude all black people or most people of color—change the criteria!"

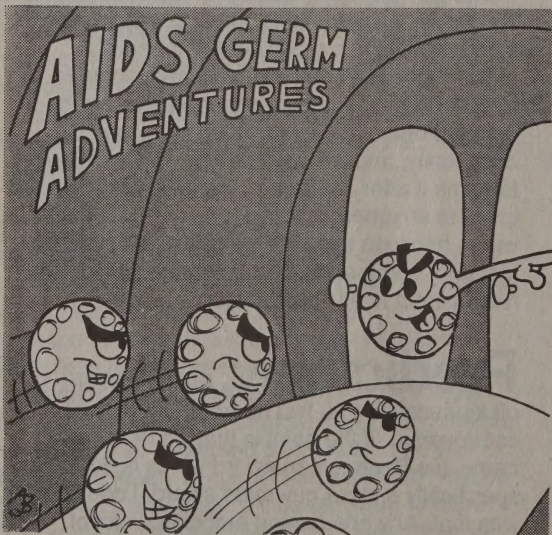
In her keynote address to the conference, lesbian Latina writer Marian Romo Carmona, tackled the issue, which had become a topic of

general discussion. She summarized her comments for BLK, "The establishment of the award was a facile solution to a complex problem. If this had been thought out and the input of African-Americans had been sought this fiasco would not have happened." Asked how she felt about the fact that the Chicana writer nominated may now be denied the \$1,000 prize, Romo Carmona was firm, "We can't be expected to fight among ourselves for crumbs. In general, we are on the ball. We can't be deluded. It *is* evidence of solidarity that we have not been divided, but then I have only the highest expectations of our communities—especially our writers and artists."

Approximately 50 persons attended the caucus held on the second day of the conference and advertised by flyer and word of mouth. Hemphill and black lesbian activist Jacquie Bishop co-facilitated, sitting on a panel which also included Alyson and Escoffier. A formal statement had been issued earlier signed by Jewelle Gomez, Hemphill, Saint, Ron Simmons and Barbara Smith and purporting to have been approved by Dorothy Beam. It condemned the Alyson-Out/Look award process and called for a new award dedicated to the memory of Joseph Beam "that serves to empower the vision he held for the communities he sought to represent."

Although earlier defiant, at the caucus, both Alyson and Escoffier apologized for failing to consult members of the African-American literary community before utilizing Beam's name and excluding blacks from the selection and evaluation process. No further reference was made to a point previously stressed by Alyson, Escoffier and Sojourner: that no objections were made to the award criteria until after it was made public that no African-Americans made the list of finalists.

Sojourner had remarked, "Some of the criticisms are valid, but the issue of self-interest has to be raised...I've heard that some people have issues with Sasha Alyson." During the caucus, Hemphill repeatedly denounced the campaign to re-solicit Mrs. Beam's permission for use of her son's name, efforts undertaken in Hemphill's absence. He is known to have had stormy relations with Alyson during the publication of *Brother to Brother*. Still, many thought the anthology should have won the Beam Award. Alyson made it clear he disagreed, "I don't know



"Hey guys, we can get out this way. This one's lambskin, but the other's latex."

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any book that was blatantly overlooked that should have been on there that wasn't."

The caucus spent most of its time discussing ways to select criteria and to raise money for a new Joseph Beam/Par Parker pair of awards.

Once again

African-American lesbian and gay activists point an accusatory finger at a mainstream gay institution. The charge, as always, is racism in one of its many hydra-headed forms. The defense, as always, is absence of malice, is perennially peevish people of color.

Should Alyson have understood that a prize named for a promising black gay writer martyred by AIDS had an obligation, created an expectation that it would seek talent of color to honor? Do artistic prizes named for eminent women generally go to women? Probably. Do such prizes, when named for foreigners, usually go to countrymen of the original honoree? Less certainly. While often, especially initially, eponymous awards are given to persons who in some way resemble the eponym, time usually frays the connection, unless resemblance is made an explicit criterion.

But this was only the first time the Beam was to be given. It may be the last if African-Americans continue to assert such proprietary claims over its bestowal. But that may be unavoidable if racial exploitation is to be avoided.

Is it desirable that white-run, capitalized institutions never give a grant in the name of a person of color except when it is *for* or *about* people of color? Is it legitimate for non-blacks to be encouraged to write about African-Americans in order to "colorize" their repertoires and the general body of literature? Is it relevant that black artists can win and may need such grants or that audiences may learn more about black achievement when money and minorities are wrapped around one another in honorarium form? Slapping whiteness in the face for offense given may be grand drama, but it can also be a case of smiting your nose to spite your face.

Is it possible to legitimately nominate only Anglos for a Joseph Beam award? Conceivably. There may be years when, due to lack of opportunity, resources or interest no African-American publishes a work of distinction or none publish at all. But that is not the era in which the first Beam award was scheduled to be conferred.

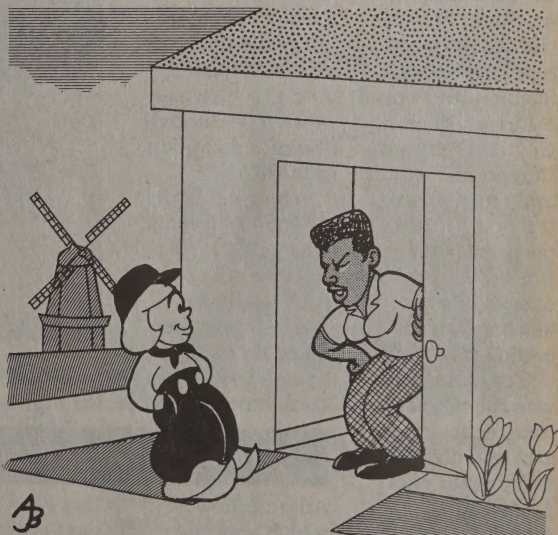
We are in the

midst, no, the beginning of a cultural renaissance in lesbian and gay African-America. Nineteen ninety-one was a year in which a plethora of excellent and/or interesting works by black lesbian or gay authors were printed by a variety of publishers, including Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, Woman in the Moon Publications, Vega, Galienis, Firebrand, Seal Press, Plume and Dutton.

So it is hard to fathom that not a single African-American writer deserved even to be nominated for the Beam award, even if no effort was made to include black authors.

It is still harder to understand that an award named for so Afrocentric an activist inspired none of the judges to seek works in the Beam tradition the award was helping to promulgate. Which raises another question appropriate to this discussion: Why were there no African-American lesbian or gay authors the judges found worth considering? What kinds of talent blocks, economic woes, brain drains, cultural discrimination and old boy networks prevented black creativity from emerging into print?

The racism which manifested itself in this incident may have contained a significant institutional component. Exclusion of talent from participation can occur before the competition ever opens.



"That's very interesting. Now I'm going to tell you the story of the dyke that poked the little Dutch boy."

It was a week California would not soon forget. Record-breaking

gathering have taken place. For all the planning problems, contro-

Alliance, the 1992 gathering was being co-sponsored by an

Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day as well as hosting fundraisers and cultural events. Yet one of the larger and better known components of Unity, the Black Men's Xchange (BMX), chose to hold their annual gathering in Oakland at the same time. As so many activities were taking place at the Oakland Airport Hilton, the last minute new location for the conference, there were few opportunities for

tion similar to last year's conference in Los Angeles when the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance mounted an unprecedented festival that essentially extended the conference over ten days; there were just too many things happening at one time. Partly because the Clarion Hotel proved unable to handle the needs of the Conference, prompting the last minute move down the road to the

CONFERENCE REPORT

storms had dumped torrents of rain and snow on the drought-stricken state. Spectacular skyscraper fires, flash floods and landslides that sent luxury homes tumbling down hillsides were the order of the day. Yet on Thursday morning, Feb. 13, the rain stopped just long enough for the fifth annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference to open its doors to the nearly 700 participants who braved the best special effects Mother Nature could create.

The conference was the largest to date, eclipsing in size and scope every other effort by African-American lesbians and gays in the nearly 15 years that such

versies and the apocalyptic weather, there was no debate among those who made it to Oakland drenched, but in one piece: this was to be a very special five days indeed.

Activists came from all across the United States; about a third were Californians, yet all of the enclaves of black lesbian and gay activists were represented, including London and the Caribbean.

The Conference was being held outside of Los Angeles for only the second time since its inception.

Unlike the 1990 conference in

umbrella group of local black organizations called Unity.

Unity has made



itself visible throughout the

participants to partake in the

Hilton, some conference activi-

TEXT BY MARK HAILE

Atlanta, however, which was co-sponsored by the African-American Lesbian and Gay

Bay Area for the past year, marching as a contingent in the San Francisco

PHOTOS BY BRUCE HUNT

BMX fete, the 1992 National Cultural Gathering and Retreat.

It was a situa-

ties were scattered over a number of sites as well.

Part of the growth in the 1992

conference was due to the expansion of the institutes which preceded the main body of workshops.

Thursday was given over entirely to the AIDS Institute, featuring many of the best minds in the nation. The AIDS Institute alone was nearly as large as the first Forum conference in 1979. The AIDS Institute has also evolved into the largest single gathering each year of African-Americans living with HIV, one of the few opportunities that they have to confer with administrators, health care advocates and front line health care workers.

During the packed luncheon, Harlton Dalton of the National Commission on AIDS told the participants, "We need to welcome those, who in 1992, are just discovering the AIDS epidemic," noting the need to incorporate black organizations—not involved in gay activism or even health care—in the war on HIV in the African-American community.

"Everybody who loves you doesn't

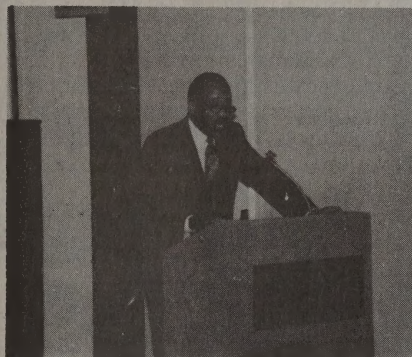
have to support you," Dalton reminded them, "and everybody who supports you doesn't have to love you."

Joining Dalton on the dais were an impressive cross section of activists moderated by Dr. John Bush of Massachusetts, that included George Bellinger, Jr., of Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, Belinda Rochelle of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C., Joyce Hunter of the Hetrick-Martin Institute in New York City, Dr. John Peterson of the University of California at San Francisco, and Wendell Carmichael of San Francisco's Early Advocacy and Care for HIV.

Apart from the information shared on the latest protocols, the AIDS Institute also provided a chance for many to open up and share their experiences in dealing with the epidemic.

The first of many moving moments during the conference took place when 18-year-old Jaison Buchanan spoke at a panel of

relatives of people with HIV. Buchanan's father, Rory, was a New York City poet and activist who died



of AIDS on Dec. 26, 1991.

"Some might say it takes guts to come here and speak before you," Jaison addressed the room, "but it wasn't guts. It was the fact that he was my father, a 36-year-old male, proud to be gay and a parent." Jaison described how he became a caregiver to his ailing father, and in the process, became an activist himself by being visible and reaching out to other teens who have a member of their family living with HIV.

Rory Buchanan was one of many activists who were honored and remembered in many ways over the weekend. Buchanan and

other past participants in the conference, including Martial-Rio Givens of Los Angeles and

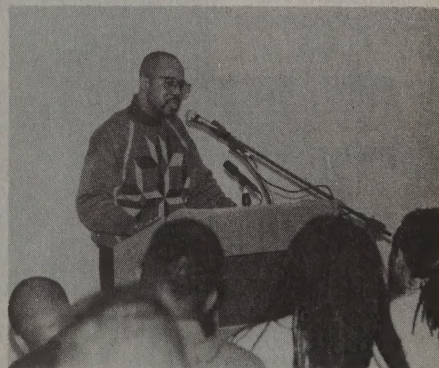
Quilt were brought out, to remain on display throughout the conference.

The effect of AIDS on the gay and lesbian African-American community spilled over to Friday and the other institutes as well. Assotto Saint, editor of *The Road Before Us*, pointed out during his Cultural Institute keynote address that out of the 100 poets in the historic anthology, "Fifty-three were affected by HIV—and seven have already died."

Dr. Bush, among the contributors to the anthology, was mourning the death of his lover, Nelson Rivera, who also passed away

Madame Edna Mae Brown of Atlanta, had rooms named in their memory over the weekend, joining other black lesbian and gay heroes also so remembered.

A memorial service took place



Thursday evening at the hotel that featured Oakland opera singers Dan Long and Shirley Miller. Panels from the AIDS Memorial

late last year of AIDS.

Dr. Bush was concerned about preserving the history and

recording the presence of the twentieth century African-American lesbian and gay community. His wit and analysis, especially in the face of such personal tragedy, earned him a position of admiration and respect among several generations of activists present.

Especially sought after was a 92-year-old "lifelong" lesbian, Ruth Ellis, who spent the weekend besieged by admirers, a situation which suggested that the generation gap that the white gay and lesbian community is currently going through does not match with the experience of the black lesbian and gay community.

The Spirituality Institute was also making its debut this year, joining the already established Institutes on Leadership and Women's Issues.

The central role that spirituality plays in the African-American lesbian and gay community, as with the African-American civil rights movement overall, was repeatedly mentioned—another

significant difference to the advantage of black lesbians and gays men.

This is the third year that an attempt has been made to develop a track of workshops around spirituality and religion, and the payoff was shown by the



standing room only participation.

The cultural aspects of the conference went far beyond the one day institute. Over 30 films and videos were presented con-

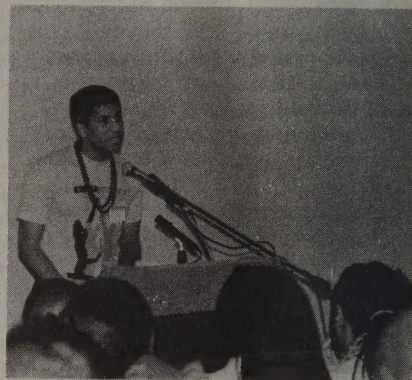
tinuously. Among the many well known and not so well known works presented were Michelle Parker-son's *Stormé: The Lady of the Jewel Box* and *Gotta Make This Journey*. Marlon Riggs's contributions included

with his video *This is Not an AIDS Advertisement*.

An art exhibit ran all through the

Cathartic Comics of Bay Area artist Rupert Kinnard.

The Saturday afternoon reading provided an



conference. Performances and readings took place daily, with three books celebrating their publication during the weekend.

The conference provided possibly the one single opportunity for the greatest number of poets included in *The Road Before Us* to be in one place at the same time, and sure enough, the reading featuring the contributors had to move to a room more than twice as large as planned for.

Also celebrating were writer/activist Vega, whose anthology *Warm December* debuted at the conference, as did *B.B. and the Diva*, the published

opportunity for conference organizers to make amends with folksinger Black-berri, who had been commissioned to compose a theme song for the conference, "Weaving the Future."

Because of the dispute over what had been agreed upon when commissioning the song and what Blackberri was told when he delivered the finished work, the anthem was performed only once, during the Saturday afternoon reading. Yet it left those who participated in the three-part harmony deeply moved.

Conference founder Phill Wilson provided,

Affirmation, Anthem, Color Adjustment and the controversial *Tongues Untied*. Also presented was Isaac Julien's *Looking for Langston*; shown

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Bid Whist Hosted by ALVON OLDIES PLAYED HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT	2 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!	3 1992 MR CATCH ONE 12:30PM CONTEST	4 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DUE DJ BILLY LONG IN JEWEL'S ROOM	5 OL' TIMERS HAPPY HOUR	6 Birthday Party for Carlton, Steve Serrien & Cabrini EXOTIC DANCERS MALE & FEMALE
7 BUILD YOUR OWN HOTDOG BEEF OR TURKEY	8 Divas For Dollars Hosted by Ms Mahogany	9 BIRTHDAY PARTIES WELCOME	10 PICO BEACH Yeah Mon! REGGAE NIGHTS BUTCHES LYP SYNC	11 LIP SYNC Hosted by MAURICE	12 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM PARTY NIGHT JAMMIN' THE HOUSE	13 GUEST DJ TILL DAWN! THE PARTY'S NOT OVER
14 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS NO COVER TILL 7PM JAZZ & BLUES IN JEWEL'S ROOM 5-7PM	15 Bid Whist Hosted by ALVON OLDIES PLAYED HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT	16 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!	17 PICO BEACH JOCK STRAP PARTY Yeah Mon! REGGAE IN JEWEL'S ROOM	18 BRA PARTY LIP SYNC Hosted by MS MONICA	19 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM PARTY NIGHT PUMPIN' YOU UP	20 SBC Magazine Support Party
21 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS NO COVER TILL 7PM FATHERS DAY IS THERE A BARRY IN THE HOUSE?	22 Bid Whist Hosted by ALVON OLDIES PLAYED HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT	23 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!	24 PICO BEACH Yeah Mon! REGGAE IN THE JEWEL'S ROOM	25 LIP SYNC Hosted by MAURICE DJ BILLY LONG PLAYING REQUEST IN JEWEL'S ROOM	26 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM PARTY NIGHT SHAKIN' YOUR THANG	27 Christopher Street West AFTER PARTY
28 GAY PRIDE FESTIVAL & PARADE A Serious Catch One After Party	29 Divas For Dollars Hosted by Ms Mahogany	30 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!				

JULY

			1 Carlton Youngblood's EAST COAST SLEEZE BALL	2 LIP SYNC Hosted by MONICA DJ BILLY LONG PLAYING REQUEST IN JEWEL'S ROOM	3 OL' TIMERS HAPPY HOUR	4 AT THE BEACH AFTER THE BEACH! PARTY 6PM-4AM
5 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS NO COVER TILL 7PM JAZZ & BLUES IN JEWEL'S ROOM 5-7PM	6 BID WHIST & DIVAS FOR DOLLARS EVERY MONDAY OLDIES IN JEWEL'S ROOM HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT	7 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!	8 FUNDRAISER FOR MANI UNDOS Food Pantry	9 LIP SYNC Hosted by MAURICE DJ BILLY LONG PLAYING REQUEST IN JEWEL'S ROOM	10 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM PARTY NIGHT JAMMIN' THE HOUSE	11 GUEST DJ TILL DAWN! THE PARTY'S NOT OVER
12 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS NO COVER TILL 7PM JAZZ & BLUES NO GLOVE-NO LOVE	13 BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH SHORTIE & THE DIVAS	14 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!	15 PICO BEACH Yeah Mon! REGGAE IN THE JEWEL'S ROOM	16 LIP SYNC Hosted by MONICA DJ BILLY LONG PLAYING REQUEST IN JEWEL'S ROOM	17 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM PARTY NIGHT PUMPIN' YOU UP	18 SUMMER BALL
19 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS SUMMER LOVE JAZZ & BLUES IN JEWEL'S ROOM 5-7PM	20 BID WHIST & DIVAS FOR DOLLARS EVERY MONDAY OLDIES IN JEWEL'S ROOM HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT	21 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!	22 PICO BEACH Yeah Mon! REGGAE NIGHTS BUTCHES LYP SYNC	23 LIP SYNC Hosted by MAURICE USE A NUMBER EVERY TIME	24 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM PARTY NIGHT SHAKIN' YOUR THANG	25 Christmas IN JULY IT'S TIME TO HO HO HO!
26 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS NO COVER TILL 7PM JAZZ & BLUES IN JEWEL'S ROOM 5-7PM	27 BID WHIST & DIVAS FOR DOLLARS EVERY MONDAY OLDIES IN JEWEL'S ROOM HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT	28 When is your Birthday? We can help you celebrate!	29 PICO BEACH Yeah Mon! REGGAE IN THE JEWEL'S ROOM	30 LIP SYNC Hosted by MONICA DJ BILLY LONG PLAYING REQUEST IN JEWEL'S ROOM	31 GIANT HALF YEAR NEW YEARS EVE PARTY CHEERS!	

AUGUST

						1 PAJAMA JAMMIN JAM THIS ONE IS HOT!
2 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS NO COVER TILL 7PM JAZZ & BLUES IN JEWEL'S ROOM 5-7PM	3 BID WHIST & DIVAS FOR DOLLARS EVERY MONDAY OLDIES IN JEWEL'S ROOM HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT	4 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!	5 PICO BEACH Yeah Mon! REGGAE IN THE JEWEL'S ROOM	6 LIP SYNC Hosted by MAURICE DJ BILLY LONG PLAYING REQUEST IN JEWEL'S ROOM	7 OL' TIMERS HAPPY HOUR PARTY NIGHT PUMPIN' YOU UP	8 GUEST DJ TILL DAWN! THE PARTY'S NOT OVER
9 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS HOT NIGHTS - HOT BEN JAZZ & BLUES IN JEWEL'S ROOM 5-7PM	10 BID WHIST & DIVAS FOR DOLLARS EVERY MONDAY OLDIES IN JEWEL'S ROOM HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT	11 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!	12 PICO BEACH Yeah Mon! DO IT PROPERLY!	13 LIP SYNC Hosted by MONICA DJ BILLY LONG PLAYING IN JEWEL'S ROOM	14 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM PARTY NIGHT JAMMIN' THE HOUSE	15 SEEING RED PARTY II
16 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS NO COVER TILL 7PM JAZZ & BLUES IN JEWEL'S ROOM 5-7PM	17 BID WHIST & HOT BICH DIVAS EVERY MONDAY OLDIES IN JEWEL'S ROOM HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT	18 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG HEY NOW!	19 PICO BEACH Yeah Mon! REGGAE NIGHTS BUTCHES LYP SYNC	20 LIP SYNC Hosted by MAURICE REQUEST IN JEWEL'S ROOM	21 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM PARTY NIGHT SHAKIN' YOUR THANG	22 GUEST DJ TILL DAWN! THE PARTY'S NOT OVER
23 SUNDANCE SUNDAYS WANT IT? COME GET IT JAZZ & BLUES IN JEWEL'S ROOM 5-7PM	24 BID WHIST & DIVAS FOR DOLLARS EVERY MONDAY CATCH ONE CAREES PLAY SAFE!	25 KARAOKE VIDEO SING-A-LONG NO COVER!	26 PICO BEACH Yeah Mon! REGGAE IN THE JEWEL'S ROOM	27 LIP SYNC Hosted by MONICA DJ BILLY LONG PLAYING REQUEST IN JEWEL'S ROOM	28 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM PARTY NIGHT WATER BASE.	29 GUEST DJ TILL DAWN! THE PARTY'S NOT OVER

W H I S T L E S

JEWEL'S

Catch One

upon the conclusion of the *a cappella* performance, to facilitate a solution to the differences.

Saturday evening's banquet, held in Oakland's Chinatown, proved to be both inspirational and logistically a nightmare.

The restaurant found by organizers to replace the already-booked Hilton's banquet rooms proved to be unable to deal with the size of the record-breaking demand for dinner tickets. A leaky roof further made for cramped quarters as diners, dancers, film crews and waiters all vied for the same dry floor space.

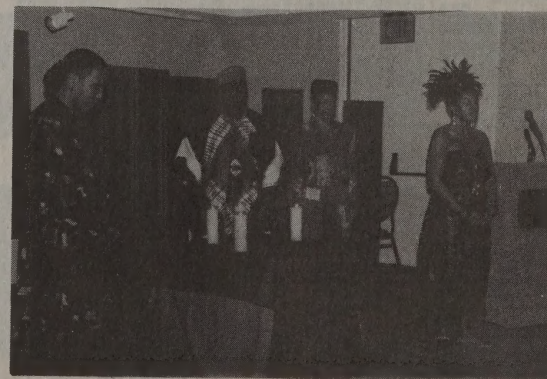
An unfortunate result of the discomfort of the participants was a great deal of racist anti-Asian sentiment, voiced audibly and without rebuke from members of what would have been considered the most politically correct gathering.

The discomfort was real, however, and many on the organizing committee found themselves helping to wait on tables and otherwise placate drenched,

hungry activists. Fortunately, the selections from Steven Semien's *Children of the Night* proved to be the calming salve for all nerves, the performers earning their standing ovations several times over.

More standing ovations came—even if dinner never did—for activists honored that evening, including the newly elected member of the Seattle City Council, Sherry Harris, women's music pioneer Linda Tillery, publisher Alan Bell, and Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church.

The Saturday night honorees were among good company over the



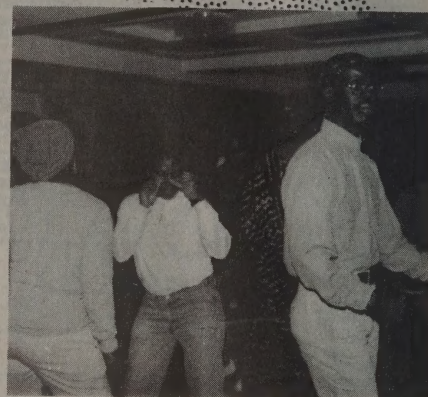
course of the weekend. Among the speakers they joined were Linda

Villarosa, senior editor of *Essence*, who spoke alongside her mother Clara, also now an activist in her own right, since Linda's coming out last fall. They were followed through the conference by journalist Sabrina Sojourner; Dr. Tim Moragne, president of the Association of Black Psychologists; Sandra Lowe of the State of New York's Office of Gay and Lesbian Affairs; Dr. Marjorie Hill, Gay and Lesbian Liaison for New York City under Mayor David Dinkins; and Dr. Billy E. Jones, Commissioner of Mental Health for the City of New York.

The rank and file participants

were as impressive as the speakers they came to hear. Whether from

Tunnel Springs, Alabama, or Los Angeles, California, they were



in many instances the primary role models and examples in their own communities.

This was clearly a weekend where the front line activists, so often on the receiving end of the movement's grunt work,

sight. It was not unusual to see seasoned activists brushing away

tears, which as Sandra Lowe said in her closing remarks, "were the sign of incredible strength."

Exemplifying the catharsis felt by participants was the way in which the calm, professional composure of Dr. Moragne, who admitted that he "wasn't one for the limelight," surprised even himself as he became emotional looking out over the assembled conference participants at the closing meeting while speaking about the death of a cousin to AIDS. Reflecting on the years of behind-the-scenes and out-in-the-open activism that

preceded his being able to address such a body, Dr. Moragne understatedly remarked, "As a professional in the mental health field, let me tell you, *out* is better."

Even with the room crammed to standing-room-only, there were recurring questions about the expenses involved in attending the conference.

Organizers rankled at repeated references to the conference as "middle class" and "elitist." Co-chair Jonathan Poullard pointed out that in the five years of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, no one has ever been turned away for lack of funds. In 1992, Poullard observed, over 150 local volunteers were utilized to help the conference run as smoothly as possible. The scope of the presentations provided, especially so much of it in the face of the life-threatening diseases of HIV, cancer and alcoholism, meant that fundraising, grant writing and the appeal for donations went on all year 'round.

Organizers attempted to ensure that everyone—especially people living with HIV—would be at the conference who should be.

Some participants noted the absence of young people, unusual with so many gay and lesbian youth groups active in the Bay Area, and a five-year low in the number of elected officials on hand to offer their greetings.

If the class-related issues of some participants gave them misgivings about attending the conference, those feelings seemed to be rectified by the weekend's finish. The recognition that not all blacks are the same color, speak the same English, or have the same exact experience of living as black lesbians and gay men at the edge of several marginalized cultures, seemed to cut across many dividing lines.

Whether veteran or novice within the movement, it was clear, as organizers had hoped, that this year's gathering would prove a watershed year. The enthusiasm displayed by conferees all



weekend was still buoying them up as they made their way home on Monday.

Most were already eager about beginning their plans for the 1993 conference, to take place at

the Universal Studios Hilton in Los Angeles, followed by New York City in 1994 for the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion.

Even as they spoke about the

effect of being among such a huge number of lesbian and gay African-Americans, many wondered among themselves how many would not be around for the next conference.



MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS

MICHAEL JACKSON "Dangerous" (Epic)

The first round of predictable hype has died down, somewhat, following the release of *Dangerous*, the new album by Michael Jackson. The media build-up was incredible, especially on the MTV, BET and Fox networks - the three outlets chosen to exclusively premiere the album's disappointing first video for "Black or White" (seen by an estimated 500 million viewers). Although the last four minutes of crotch rubbing and car smashing was later cut from the video, it is enjoying very heavy doses of air-time.

Jackson's list of career accomplishments reads like a Who's Who of the music industry: *Off The Wall* (1979) was the first solo album in history to generate four Top Ten singles; *Thriller* (1982) was the first album to generate seven Top Ten singles; *Bad* (1987) is the only album to generate five #1 singles. As we look at this newest release, what are the reasons for Michael Jackson's mass appeal? Does the Black gay community consider him one of our own?

Dubbed the "King of Pop" in a recent *Rolling Stone* cover story, Jackson is much more than a pop star. As a worldwide sex symbol, who can be an aggressive figure when performing in concert, Jackson's emphatic sexuality presumably appeals to men who want to be like him and women who want him. Offstage, his soft voice

and quiet shyness reflect the more feminine aspects of his personality.

Beyond this bit of character-typing, Jackson possesses an undeniable appeal to children. Many say this is because he is, at heart, a child himself. This is surely due, in part, to growing up in the spotlight as the focus of the Jackson 5, lacking a 'real' childhood of his own. Neverland Valley, Jackson's California estate, is a modern oasis: fascinating flowers and trees, an exotic, fully populated zoo, and a full-scale

amusement park, to name a few of the attractions. Many children visit each year, from Jackson's celebrity buddies Emmanuel Lewis and Macaulay Culkin to terminally ill kids on vacation from hospitals.

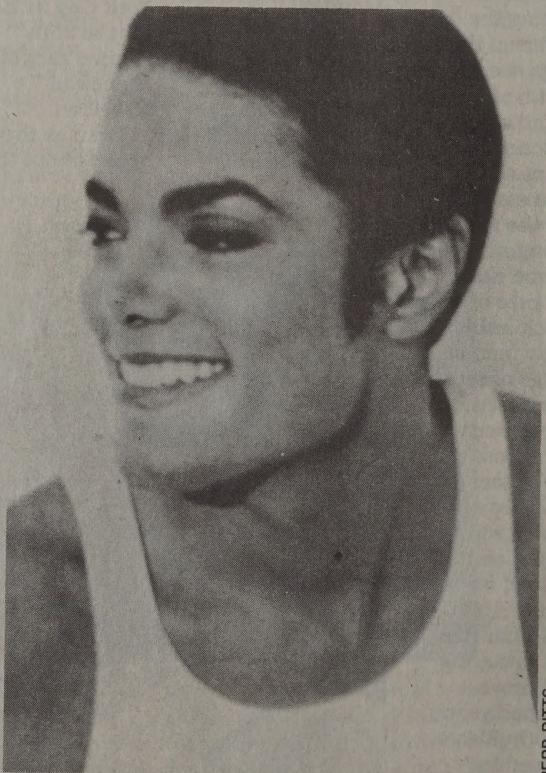
With the release of *Dangerous*, Jackson steps, momentarily, off the beaten path of pop. Hooking up with "new jack swing" master producer Teddy Riley was a smart move on Jackson's part. Riley's influence snaps the album to

attention; the best cuts are those with Teddy in the mix.

Riley's beats are slammin' and musically current, but at times become repetitive, overpowering Jackson's trademark low-pitched grunts. The cutest beats are the jammin' "She Drives Me Wild" and the steady hip-hop groove of "Remember The Time." The frankness of "Why You Wanna Trip On Me" is refreshing, asking straight out, with all that's going on in the world, why trip on Michael?

The album's slower tracks, written and composed by Jackson, wander back into pop territory. Although the point of "Heal the World" is well taken ("Heal the world/Make it a better place/For you and for me/And the entire human race"), it comes off as a sappy and blatant continuation of "We Are the World." The Andrae Crouch Singers lend a strong gospel/soul element to "Will You Be There," but this doesn't save the song from its slightly self-pitying slant ("Everyone's taking control of me/Seems that the world's/Got a role for me/I'm so confused").

One wonders if this "confusion," regarding sexual preferences or whatever, will yet be fully explored. Jackson's most open cries of affection are directed toward women ("In the Closet," "Can't Let Her Get Away," the soul-searching "Who Is It"). Yet, his continual quest to control and alter his physical appearance keeps the idea of sexual and emotional ambiguity very much alive.



HERB RITTS

BOOKS

BY ALAN E. MILLER

Becky Birtha has quickly become one of my most cherished muses, first with her book of short stories, *Lover's Choice*, reviewed in an earlier issue, and now with a fat, attractive volume (154 pages) called *The Forbidden Poems* (\$10.95 paper, Seal Press).

Birtha writes most movingly of how we lose love daily. My favorite, "There Are No Trees In China," alternately bemoans and celebrates what is missing in that landscape: trees, houseflies, bosses, and birds. The poem ends with this powerful stanza: "I remember I have read:/ There are no homosexuals in China./ It was written with pride./ It was only one of many/ problems that had been solved."

In her best poems, the seams between the personal and political dissolve, and in many her wit is sharp and her metaphors keenly observed, as in "My Next Lover" and "In Season." Her most common theme, though, is love: lost, gained, threatened, triumphant, defeated, late, early, ever-present in the kitchen, in the garden, in the subway musician's coin-filled guitar case.

I met Pat Parker at the first National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, five Februarys ago. Although she lived and worked in the Bay Area, I saw her read live for the first time there in Los Angeles. I was thrilled! I bought a copy of her *Jonestown and other madness*, which she inscribed "Thank you for investing in

my soul!"—Pat Parker." Words which hover in my mind whenever I am asked to sign a book—even her inscriptions were poems! All of this is just to tell you that a new edition of *Movement in Black* is available (\$8.95 paper, Firebrand), a book that should be on all our bookshelves, containing the title poem as well as the classics; "Womanslaughter," "For The Straight Folks/ Who Don't Mind Gays/ But Wish They Weren't So BLA-TANT" and "Where Will You Be?"

Audre Lorde's chapbook (\$3.50, paper, Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press) is the sixth of the Freedom Organizing Pamphlet series which "presents issues, strategies and resources which focus upon the political concerns of women of color." More than simply a poetry broadside, it contains a political button and a listing of resources for organizing. Since the poem, entitled "Need: A Chorale for Black Woman Voices," concerns violence against women, the resources in

clude organizations, hotlines and publications devoted to the issue. It is important and powerful not only because it extends the boundaries of the poem and of activism but because it seems to quietly insist upon both performance and activism, things divorced from much of the poetry mainstream.

The *Road Before Us: 100 Gay Black Poets* (\$10, paper, Galiens), edited by Assotto Saint, is also now available. Though I love most of the poems, my favorite parts of the volume are the contributors' notes and the introduction. That this is an important and urgently needed collection was communicated by the response to the readings. One hundred poets. One hundred of us. What a remarkable statement the quantity, quality, breadth and depth of the poems represent. What makes this collection even more profound is that many of the writers included are being published for the very first time and that, 53 of the 100 poets selected are dealing with some form of HIV. Rory Buchanan and Craig Harris, who both died last year, are represented by strong selections. Their single poems whet the appetite for complete volumes of their works.

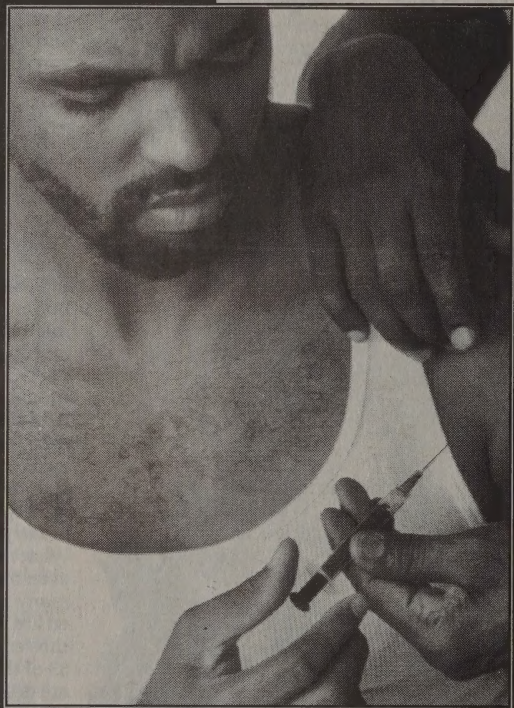
Poetry by lesbians and gays of African descent is in a healthy state, growing, self-refining and presenting itself to us in evermore forums and media. One wonders what it will be like in five years...or 50. This is a rich legacy, evidence of a rich present.



ALCINDOR

KNOW *yourself*

Black men need to support each other...



not infect each other.

KNOWLEDGE=POWER

If we don't take care of each other... Who will? Sharing a needle may infect your brother with HIV. Injection drug user... leave the needle alone! Protect yourself, your friends and your loved ones. Get tested. Stay healthy. Be there for one another. That's black power, baby!

For information on AIDS and referrals to free and anonymous HIV Antibody Testing, call the AIDS Hotline. Please.

1-800 922-AIDS (SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA)

1-800 367-AIDS (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA)

ATS
ALTERNATIVE
TEST SITES
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES



BLK NEWS

COMPILED BY ERIC K. WASHINGTON, NEWS EDITOR

AIDS Kills Most Productive

DAKAR, Senegal (LAT)—Although AIDS may impact overpopulation in Africa, it will exacerbate the already troublesome imbalance between Africa's productive workers and its dependents, principally children and the elderly. New estimates indicate that AIDS is striking disproportionately at people between ages 15 and 49. The unhappy scenario was outlined at a gathering of medical professionals in December who had assembled for the Sixth International Conference on AIDS in Africa.

Researchers believe that studying the demographic impact of AIDS is critical to understanding the potential cost of the epidemic. But they admit that their conclusions are highly speculative and based mostly on computer models that try to predict how people will react to the multiple shocks of the disease.

"These are really back-of-the-envelope calculations," said Martha Ainsworth, a health economist at the World Bank, "but they're the best we can do right now."

Even so, the future looks grim. Current estimates from the U.N. World Health Organization are that 6 million Africans are infected with HIV. That is 60 percent of the recorded global total of HIV-infected persons, and represents one of every 40 adult Africans.

By the year 2000, according to WHO projections, more than 14 million adult Africans will have been infected, and 4 million babies will have been born infected. By then Africa will have had 5 million people who have developed AIDS.

Man Held in Shepherd Murder

SAN FRANCISCO—Police have arrested a suspect in the strangulation murder of Larry Shepherd, a purchasing supervisor at Golden Gate University. Shepherd, who is black, was found dead in his apartment on Ellis St. after having last been seen Dec. 13 at work.

Rafael Martinez, 36, has been charged with Shepherd's murder and is being held on \$500,000 bond. Although the Golden Gate University had offered a \$5,000 reward for information in the case, the arrest came through other channels, according to Inspector Ed Erdelatz of the San Francisco Police Dept.

Erdelatz said that Shepherd apparently met Martinez, whom he described as bisexual, in a bar. The motive, he said, was robbery.

Sponsors Rethink Magic Ads

LOS ANGELES (LAT)—Despite pledges by advertisers to stick by Earvin (Magic) Johnson, he has quietly been benched by many of them. Only one American advertiser—Converse—has announced specific plans to feature Johnson in future product spots. The Converse ad will air during the Summer Olympic Games.

While many of the advertisers say they plan to support

Johnson's AIDS awareness efforts—and possibly create ads that speak to the issue of acquired immune deficiency syndrome—most are reluctant to specifically comment on any plans to continue using Johnson as a product spokesman.

Among those still straddling the fence are Pepsi, Nestle and Spalding. But Nestle has not run any ads featuring Johnson since signing him on three months ago. Two companies that used Johnson in ads in 1991—Target Stores and Kentucky Fried Chicken—say they have no plans to use him in 1992. But they insist that is unrelated to his illness.

Meanwhile, Johnson has not signed on with any new companies since his announced illness.

Homophobes Harrass Pageant

ST. CROIX, U.S. Virgin Islands—Almost 2,000 people attended the "Miss Gay Pageant" last fall, thanks in part to a storm of homophobic news coverage in the local press. A group called Concerned Christian Crucians made an effort to stop the event, "from the time we put up the first banner," said activist Luis Rodriguez.

The pageant was a benefit for the St. Thomas Hostel, an AIDS hospice in St. Croix started by Serenity House Inter-Island Neighborhood Endowment. The performers, who came from St. Croix, St. Thomas and San Juan, Puerto Rico, included both female impersonators and male strippers.

For a full month before the pageant, the two local newspapers waged battle with incendiary headlines and dramatic turns of events. "It was like a war zone," said Rodriguez.

While the *St. Croix Daily News* had homophobic articles, Rodriguez, a production manager at the St. Croix daily *Avís*, sensitized his co-workers to lesbian and gay concerns, resulting in unprecedented visibility for the local community. "People wrote such letters like I never imagined" in support of the gay community, Rodriguez told BLK.

Said Rudolf Matthews, pageant organizer, "Many straight people showed up to show their support." In fact, two bleachers were filled with members of the Concerned Christian Crucians who wanted to support the hospice. But Matthews quit after he was threatened and Rodriguez plans to run the next pageant.

—Mark Haile

Grandmom Battles for Tots

TULSA—An African-American grandmother in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is battling with the courts to win custody of her two grandchildren from a white lesbian couple.

Mrs. Rigby came out to Los Angeles and faced a number of hurdles in trying to discover what had happened to her daughter's five-year-old and 18-month-old children while she had been estranged from her drug-addicted daughter.

Although the mother was supposedly found somewhere on the streets of Los Angeles and had signed an affidavit asking for her children to be placed in the custody of their

grandmother, no such form was found, and Rigby's request for guardianship was denied.

Department of Children's Services social workers have objected to the children being placed in a white home, and a lesbian one at that.

The Institute of Black Parenting, vigorously opposed to the placing of black children in non-black homes, did not

BLK BRIEFS

NEW YORK: *Paris Is Burning* was voted the year's Best Documentary by the 25-member New York Film Critics' Circle.

PHILADELPHIA: Dwayne and Carlton Bennett, both 20, and Giovanni Reed, 16, were arrested in the robbery murder of Robert Charles Janke. Janke, 22, was a volunteer with Nite Watch, a neighborhood group formed to protect gay businesses. **MOBILE:** The Mobile Area Lesbian and Gay Assembly adopted a mission statement at its Nov. 18 meeting which read, in part, "to build a multi-cultural community where all, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation... may congregate to support one another..." **NASHVILLE:** The Cracker Barrel restaurant chain that has been under fire for its anti-gay hiring policies may incur the wrath of the African-American community for the "black mammy" dolls it carries in its adjacent gift shops.

BALTIMORE: The Black Gay Community Center of Baltimore has been awarded \$10,000 from the state for AIDS education. **ATLANTA:** A suspect identified only as Linsay has been arrested and charged with assault telling officers the victim was just a "fucking homo."

HARARE, Zimbabwe: The manager of the Amenities Dept. said in Sept. that the city's four cemeteries are full and officials are considering requiring that persons who die of AIDS be cremated. **HOUSTON:** Johnny Bryant Darrington III, 20, was charged in the shooting death of Philip W. Smith, 24, outside a Montrose bar. Police say Darrington said he shot the victim because he hates homosexuals.

MILWAUKEE: Catherine Lacy is suing three Milwaukee police officers, charging that their racism contributed to the death of her 23-year-old son, Oliver. The victim's mother says that her son would be alive today if the officers had believed witnesses' complaints and arrested Jeffrey Dahmer rather than returning a naked, bleeding Laotian boy to Dahmer's care. **SAN DIEGO:** Sistaahparty held a workshop "Bridging the Gap: Celebrating Our Diversity" Nov. 23.

NEW YORK: Among the productions featured at Lookout: Lesbian and Gay Television Festival were *Splash* by Thomas Harris, *She Don't Fade* by Cheryl Dunye, *Homosexuality: A Child's Point of View* by Jahanara and *Emergence* by Pratibha Parmar. The festival took place in New York Oct. 9 through 13.

MILWAUKEE: The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee held a discussion "Racism II: An Exploration of Attitudes and Experiences" Nov. 21.

NEW YORK: Men of All Colors/New York sponsored a four-month, four-session series, "Our Sisters, Ourselves" about relationships between black lesbians and gay men. **NEW YORK:** *Among Good Christian Peoples*, a video by Catherine Saalfeld and Jacqueline Woodson was shown at the Center Sept. 27. *Peoples* includes the music of the Lavendar Light Black and People of All Colors Lesbian and Gay Gospel Choir...

criticize the sexual orientation of the lesbian couple, but are deeply concerned that such an environment might not teach the children how to survive in a racist America.

—Mark Haile

Randy Miller New EACH Head

SAN FRANCISCO—Randy Miller has begun his tenure as Interim Coordinator of the San Francisco-based Gay Men of Color Consortium's Early Advocacy and Care for HIV (EACH) program. Previously, Miller was director of the Rafiki Project, a unit of the San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS.

Miller replaced Wendell C. Carmichael, who is now program coordinator for the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum in Los Angeles.

Miller was national constituency coordinator for Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential bid and was national volunteer director for the National March on Washington. He has also worked for the Democratic National Committee and assisted with research projects focusing on child welfare issues.

Divas Sing for MAP's Benefit

LOS ANGELES—A sellout crowd was on hand for the second annual "Divas: Simply Singing!" May 31 at the Masonic Temple to help raise funds for the Minority AIDS Project.

The roster of performers included Tisha Campbell, Patrice Chancel-Carter, Cherrelle, Gloria Gaynor, Lalah Hathaway, Linda Hopkins, Anita Johnson, Tara Kemp, Jennifer Lewis, Mother Love, Teena Marie, Freda Payne, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Roxanne Reese, Syreeta, Liz Torres, Tata Vega, Marsha Warfield, Martha Wash, Alyson Williams, Mary Wilson and the Rickey Grundy Chorale.

Each singer was featured singing alone in a ballroom setting by a grand piano. At the end of the evening, all of the performers joined together with the Grundy Chorale to sing the evening's anthem, "Simply We Sing" written by David Coury.

Gays Organize in Nigeria

LAGOS—A previously unknown gay group in Nigeria has contacted the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) making Nigeria the fifth African nation known to have developed a gay movement.

Nigerian Gentlemen Alliance formed in Lagos, the nation's capital, in 1989 and later expanded nationwide with three "zonal bodies" and several state branches, the group reported to ILGA.

National conferences in 1990 and this past September were "huge successes," the group said, while NGA parties have brought together as many as 1,500 gay men. NGA said it "hope[d] to be guided and protected by ILGA since we operate under...an ever-threatening twin colossus of traditional conservatism and religious bigotry."

NGA recently cracked the Nigerian mainstream media with a letter denouncing skewed coverage of homosexuals. "You wouldn't believe the mail we received congratulating us and expressing wishes to register with us," the group told ILGA.

ILGA Information Secretary Micha Ramakers welcomed

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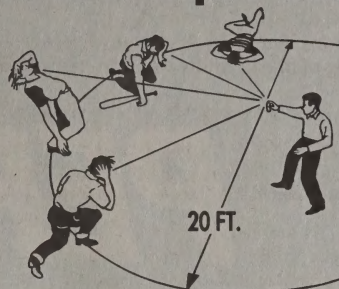
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EXT. 14

NGA to the international movement, saying, "There still are very few lesbian and gay organizations in Africa [and] they should get all the support we can give."

NGA can be contacted at Box 52686, Falomo, Lagos, Nigeria.

The other African groups are: Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, Box UA425, Union Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe; Club De LaGayes, c/o Enos Jeffreys, Bubuiashie-Atico, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana; Gay Liberation Group of Knawkaw, c/o Festus Owusu Sekyere, Box 282, Knawkaw-E/R, Ghana; Club Lambda in Monrovia, Liberia. Club Lambda, however, has been temporarily disbanded due to the nation's civil war.

—Rex Wockner

Gentlemen Announce Grants

LOS ANGELES—Gentlemen Concerned, a fundraising group based in the African-American community, announced a record \$34,000 in grants to organizations serving people living with HIV/AIDS within the community.

The announcement signaled a change in the fundraising group's six-year pattern of support HIV/AIDS services. In the past, Gentlemen Concerned focused its efforts on supporting Dignity House, a seven-bed shelter for homeless men living with AIDS operated by the Minority AIDS Project.

This year the Minority AIDS Project received \$19,500, including \$16,000 for Dignity House and \$3,500 for its financial aid program. Funds dispersed to other shelters included \$3,200 to Rue's House, serving women and children; \$5,850 to Ebony Haus, serving men and women, and \$1,000 to Caring for Babies with AIDS.

The group Aid for AIDS received \$2,000 and the South Central AIDS Institute received \$1,450 for direct financial aid services. The Gathering Place, a day-care and drop-in center in South Central Los Angeles, received \$1,200.

Gentlemen Concerned began in March 1986. Since that time, the organization has raised more than \$135,000 for HIV/AIDS services. The organization of 15 individuals raises funds through annual appeals sent through the mail to concerned members of the African-American community. An annual benefit to express appreciation to those donors caps the fundraising campaign.

Rivera Slayers Found Guilty

NEW YORK—Second murder convictions handed down to two men on Nov. 20 mark the first in New York State history for anti-gay bias, and resulted in terms for the guilty ranging from 8 years to life.

Erik Brown, who is 21 years old, and Esat Bici, who is 19, were convicted in a New York State Supreme Court in Queens of second-degree murder for "acting in concert" in the slaying of a Latino man year before last because he was gay. A third man, Daniel Doyle, 21, who confessed to instigating the attack and fatally stabbing the victim in the back, had pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of manslaughter in exchange for becoming the prosecution's primary witness against his accomplices.

The victim, 29-year-old Julio Rivera, was lured to a concealed area of a Jackson Heights schoolyard known as a gay cruising area during the early morning hours of July 2, 1990. There, Rivera was overtaken by the three men belonging to

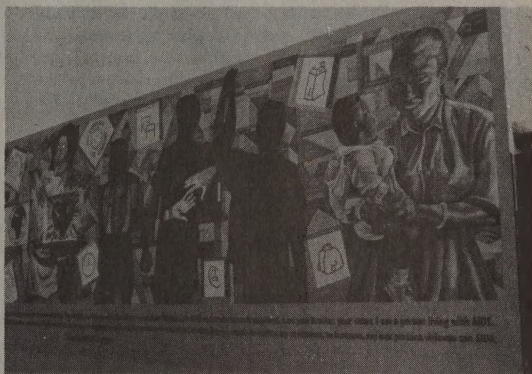
a skinhead gang called DMS, for Doc Marten Style, whereupon he was savagely bludgeoned with a claw hammer, wrench, beer bottle and stabbed fatally in the back.

Gay rights activists are hopeful that this case will have a positive impact on a New York State bias-crime bill that has been consistently stalled in the Legislature.

—Eric K. Washington

MAP Dedicates AIDS Mural

LOS ANGELES—In a continuing effort to bring attention to the drastic rise of new AIDS cases in the minority community, notables from the entertainment, political and AIDS communities joined in a public de-



dication ceremony celebrating the completion of a new AIDS awareness mural created by artists Mary-Linn Hughes and Reginald Larue Zachary.

The mural covers a street-facing wall on the building that houses Unity Fellowship Church and the Minority AIDS Project (MAP) at 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd. in South Los Angeles.

Attending the Jan. 5 ceremonies were Dionne Warwick, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, State Senator Diane Watson, Brotherhood Crusade President Danny Bakewell, City AIDS Coordinator Phill Wilson, publisher Stanley Bennett Clay and actress Sheryl Lee Ralph. Minority AIDS Project Founder Bishop Carl Bean and MAP Medical Director Dr. Wilbert Jordan presided at the event.

Black Group Gets White Funds

LOS ANGELES—The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum recently received funding from the Ryan White Care Fund to strengthen its ongoing attack against the spread of HIV in the black community.

Through its AIDS Prevention Team, the Forum seeks to provide HIV prevention/education, early intervention, and community outreach to African-American gay men and lesbians throughout Los Angeles County. The Team is a member of the Gay Men of Color Consortium.

The members of the seven-person team are Wendell Carmichael, project director; Emery Smith, volunteer trainer; Adriene Corbin, volunteer recruiter; Blaine Teamer, treatment advocate; Mark Simmons, public relations coordina-

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tor; Michele Clinton, bookkeeper; and David Flot, administrative assistant.

The AIDS Prevention Team offers a variety of services to HIV positive men and women including HIV positive support groups, buddy-mentors to newly diagnosed individuals, health and legal referrals, peer counseling and monthly medical updates.

POC Seek Expanded Agenda

WASHINGTON—The People of Color Organizing Institute (POC) held its second meeting as part of the annual National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, (NGLTF) Creating Change Conference, Nov. 8 in Alexandria, Va. Gay and lesbian activists of various ethnicities from around the country were present at the one-day workshop designed to discuss issues and concerns specific to lesbians and gay men who belong to minority groups.

Afterwards, the activists held a group discussion facilitated by Marjorie Hill, New York City's liaison to the gay and lesbian community; Mario Solis-Marich, national board co-chair of the Latino(a) Lesbian and Gay Organization; and Urvashi Vaid, executive director of NGLTF. Many of the nearly 100 who attended the session concluded that the Institute should be expanded to cover more issues over a three- to four-day period. The group also discussed the possibility of holding a separate POC conference similar to the NGLTF conference.

"Perhaps a longer POC Institute and certainly more skills-specific training should be done," Hill commented, but she also pointed out that many activists are unable to commit the time, do not have the personal resources or work for organizations that cannot afford to send them away for several days.

The group called for a workshop in 1992 on skills building and sessions to discuss the political priorities of the POC community. They also challenged gay and lesbian organizations grounded in the mainstream community to give POC issues a much higher priority.

—Mark F. Johnson

'Jacks' Off to New Format

NEW YORK—In a departure from the "lips above the hips" policy practiced by most jackoff clubs, Jacks of Color advertised that its 13th session would feature other safer sex activities as well. According to a flyer, the party would provide a chance for "sucking (but not ingesting semen), fucking (with condoms only), rimming (with dental dams, Saran wrap, whatever)."

Lidell Jackson, founder of Jacks of Color, said "Most jackoff clubs have now changed from jackoff to safer sex," he said. "But we won't abandon jackoff. We'll go back to it at some point." But he also said that potential attendees indicated a strong preference for penetration and sucking.

Jackson indicated that safe sex rules would be enforced with the use of monitors. "If two guys are not using condoms, fucking without them, and they see a monitor come by, they stop even before the monitor has a chance to say something."

For activities such as fellatio, or sucking, long debated by health advocates as an actual risk for the transmission of HIV, the virus widely believed to cause AIDS, Jackson said Jacks of Color would draw the line less rigorously. The

policy on sucking would be for monitors to recommend condom use without insisting.

—Eric K. Washington

College Student Slain by 5

ST. LOUIS—Myrod Jackson, a 22-year-old African-American student at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo., was shot in the back of the head along Highway 40 in Richmond Heights around midnight last fall. Police say his killers intended to rob him, but he had no money.

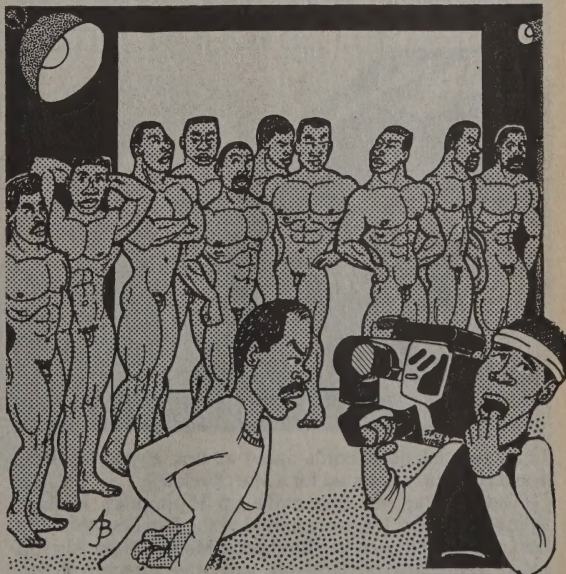
Murder charges have been brought against four men: Mark Jones, 17; Marshall Harris, 21; Robert Scott III, 17; and Melvin Willis. Police report that a fifth man was involved, but have refused to comment on him.

Jackson, who was the father of an 18-month old girl and who was engaged to marry this spring, reportedly met his killers in Forest Park where he had gone to cruise for sex. He apparently made contact with Scott and invited him into his car. Once inside, Scott and his four companions forced Jackson to a secluded spot on the highway.

Because of the lack of a struggle, police initially thought Jackson knew his killer. But a break in the case came at a party in St. Louis when a friend of Jackson's overheard someone talk about the killing. Word got back to Jackson's family, who called police.

Drifter Kills Black Gay Leader

ST. PAUL, Minn.—An 18-year-old man has admitted fatally stabbing Earl D. Craig, Jr., a civil rights activist and Minneapolis civic leader, and then stealing his 1991 Jeep Cherokee, according to a complaint issued by the Hennepin county attorney's office.



"Don't be stupid. I asked you to get two men with 10 inches."

Police said Craig, 52, apparently picked up Jayme Charles Frederick Starkey early Sunday and did not know him before that time. The suspect was arrested as he left his apartment and charged with second-degree murder.

John Laux, Minneapolis police chief, said Starkey is black. Craig also was black, and was widely known to be gay.

During a news conference, Laux said he was convinced the initials "KKK" were written by the slayer on the walls of Craig's apartment to divert attention to others. Sgt. James Deconcini, Minneapolis homicide investigator, said the suspect is not known to be gay, nor is he known to be a prostitute. The suspect is not employed and does not attend school, Deconcini said. "He's kind of a street guy," he said.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Craig was a fixture in the Twin Cities' political, academic and social-service sectors. From 1975 to 1982, he was president of the Minneapolis Urban Coalition. A year after he left that job, he founded a Minneapolis-based public consulting firm that bears his name. His expertise and knowledge was tapped by former Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich and others.

From 1983 to 1989 he was a senior fellow with the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. In 1989, Craig was the recipient of the Minnesota Human Rights Department Lifetime Award for his work in civil rights causes. In 1990 he became program director of the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program, and shortly thereafter became executive director of the entire agency. Last year, Craig was reappointed to the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission.

Rappers Hit Anti-Gay Violence

SAN FRANCISCO—Bay Area rappers, Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy, have released what is believed to be the first "anti-gay bashing" single ever to come from the rap community. "Language of Violence," a single



JAY BLAKESBERG

from their Island Records debut album, *Hypocrisy Is the Greatest Luxury*, is slated for a March release.

The two rappers that make up Hiphoprisy, Michael Franti and Rono Tse, were joined at the San Francisco hip hop club Mr. Fives by gay filmmaker Marlon Riggs. Also on hand were Barbara Cameron, executive director of San Francisco's Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and Heru-Nefera Amen of the Oakland Men's Project, a

multi-racial, multi-gender violence prevention agency.

Although rapper Franti wrote "Language of Violence" about anti-gay violence, "there are many parallels between anti-gay and anti-African-American violence," he says. "The issue is vitally important." Equally important is for his four-year-old son to grow up in a world where random violence doesn't happen based on someone's sexual orientation or skin color.

Tse, who was born in Hong Kong and grew up in San Francisco, watched his brother being pursued by a Chinese gang who had placed him on their hit list. "We're glad to help create dialogue on this issue," he explained. "We hope the single will help kids examine violent behaviors before they happen."

—DJ Marius

Women Gather for BLUES

NEW YORK—Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood (BLUES) hosted its second annual lesbian conference in October at Lehman College. The conference was titled "Coming Together, Crossing Boundaries and Respecting Differences."

Included among the several speakers was Candice Boyce, president of African Ancestral Women United for Societal Change. Another speaker labeled her own and others' tokenist approach the "Noah's Ark" method. If she and other white women could say: "see, we have two..." they would be politically correct and could lay their nagging self-doubts to rest.

Candice Boyce decided to forego her prepared notes and discussed her reasons for doing so. Just before leaving her home, she had received a phone call from an African-American woman who described herself as a butch identified drug user. The woman was extremely upset because she felt she had nowhere to go to seek help. Boyce used this woman's situation as a springboard for her talk on the need for devising new methods of grass-roots organizing within the lesbian and gay community. "How could a Black woman in this community *not* know where to go for help?" Boyce pointed to this as a serious deficiency within the community. She held the elitism among lesbian and gay activists as responsible for the failure to propel those who are "hanging by the threads" out of the bars and into support groups. In her eyes, this negligence acted as an impediment to affecting social change specifically because problems like drug and alcohol abuse are usually signs of a more serious problem—like the internalization of homophobia.

—LaRose Parris

Survey High Risk Behavior

SAN FRANCISCO—Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco have found that 52 percent of African-American gay and bisexual men interviewed in the Bay Area in 1990 had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse in the previous six months, placing them and their partners at high risk for infection with the AIDS virus. This alarming figure is considerably higher than the 15 to 20 percent reported by white gay men in San Francisco in 1988-89, according to researchers.

Gay and bisexual men make up 44 percent of the AIDS cases among African-Americans, says Jon Peterson, Ph.D., a researcher at the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies

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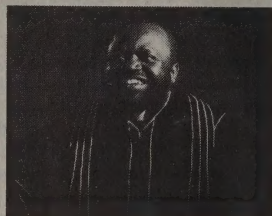
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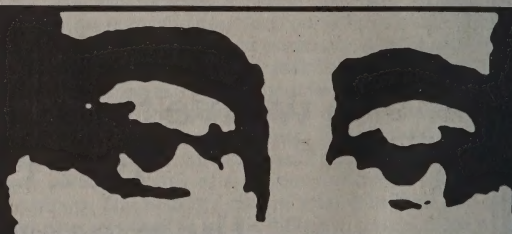
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who directs the African-American Men's Health Project.

"Nonetheless, late into the AIDS epidemic there are little data on high-risk behavior among these men in areas with a high prevalence of AIDS," said Peterson.

"The prevalence of high-risk behavior for white and African-American gay and bisexual men may be different because of sociocultural differences," suggested Peterson. "Their differences in dual minority membership, involvement in the mainstream gay community, and subcultural norms may affect their awareness of AIDS risks, access to risk reduction interventions, and acceptance of AIDS risk reduction messages," he said.

As part of the study, researchers are examining psychosocial factors previously found to influence high risk sexual behavior among gay and bisexual men, such as attitudes toward condoms, communication with sexual partners, social norms and intravenous drug use. They also are looking at how subjects' knowledge of AIDS, perceived risk of infection, help-seeking and the amount of social support influence risky behavior.

Unity Starts Joe Beam Fund

PHILADELPHIA—Unity, a gay people of color organization, has created the Joseph F. Beam Memorial Scholarship Fund, for grants to be offered at the Temple University School of Arts and Science. Beam, who died of complications related to AIDS in 1988, edited *In the Life*, the seminal anthology of writings by black gay men.

The scholarship fund was announced at the Conference for African-Americans, Lesbians, Transgendered and Gays. The conference, which was sponsored by Unity and the Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities, addressed religious, literary, personal and political issues as they relate to people of color.

GMAD Goes Gowtown

NEW YORK—Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD) held its first annual fashion show this spring at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in the Village. Entitled "Freedom of Expression," the show, a fundraiser for the organization, featured two dozen runway models strutting the wardrobes of 14 black and gay *haute couture* designers.

"We'll be showing you things that reflect the openly gay black man," said Dawud, master of ceremonies and the recipient of two awards during the program. Dawud promised the packed house that these would be "designs for the person who does not dare to be afraid!"

The fashion show raised approximately \$1,400 for the organization and drew more than 300 people.

—Eric K. Washington

Cleveland Sued Over AIDS

LOS ANGELES—Christopher B. Harris, who lived with the late Rev. James Cleveland as a foster child, has filed an \$11 million dollar lawsuit against the Grammy-winning singer's estate. Harris, who is black, claims that he and the gospel great had unprotected anal sex and that Cleveland infected him with the AIDS virus.

The Superior Court lawsuit names Cleveland's estate as

well as the James Cleveland Trust. It claims that from April 4, 1985 through May 30, 1988, the singer "sodomized the plaintiff approximately two times per month without consent."

The suit says that Cleveland "knew or should have known that he was afflicted with AIDS" and claims that he knew "unprotected anal intercourse was the highest risk sexual activity in which he could engage that could result in the transmission of the HIV virus/AIDS."

Bruce Cochran, Harris's attorney, told BLK that Cleveland's behavior "was the exact same thing as murder."

Harris, now 22, has tested positive for HIV. Although he admits to having had sex with other men, Cochran says he feels the suit will prevail in court due to the kind of sexual activity in which the two engaged.

Cleveland died Feb. 8, 1991, of HIV-related complications, but his death was attributed to respiratory problems and congestive heart failure in the mainstream media.

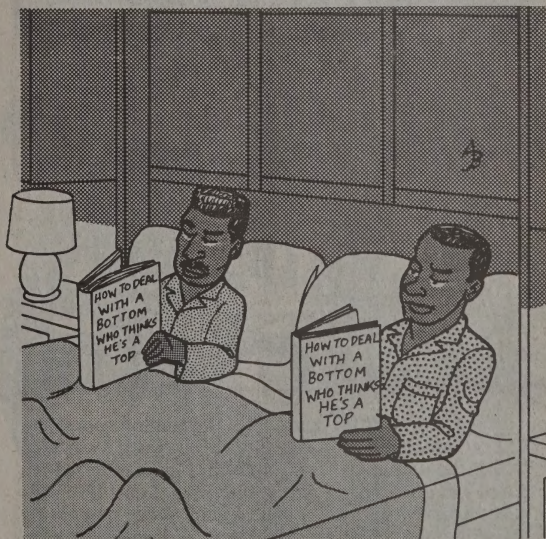
Last fall, Andre M. Cleveland, 34, formerly Andre McIsaac, claimed he was Cleveland's adopted son, and claimed half of the estimated \$6 million estate.

In documents creating the trust, which was formed only hours before Rev. Cleveland slipped irrevocably into a coma, Cleveland's daughter LaShone was left \$100,000, and Andre, referred to as a "friend and godson" was left \$10,000.

AAGLCA Gives Awards at Fête

LOS ANGELES—The African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance held its annual Black History and Awards Program this spring at Faith United Methodist Church. The event was co-sponsored by the Community Outreach and Education Department of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

Chi Hughes, former deputy director of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, delivered the keynote address. Entertainment was provided by the Unity Fellowship Men's Chorus under the direction of Darren McCarroll-



Jones, Ron Brown who performed a dance and Debra Powell who sang two selections.

Ayofemi Stowe Polayan was honored with the group's Cultural Award for outstanding cultural achievement. Those receiving the Alliance's Roger V. Pamplin Jr. Community Service Award were Rodney Carter, Gregory Coleman, Mark Haile and Lisa Powell.

Others who participated in the program were Rev. Andrew Gaither, Donald Sasser, Karimu, Rev. Frieda Brown, Rev. Herbert Evans, Russell Thornhill who was program chairman and Warren "Ajamu" Sims, the group's co-founder.

The evening concluded with refreshments and an art show.

Billy Preston Charged Again

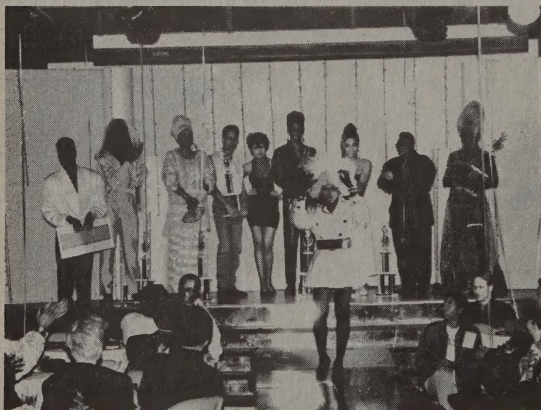
MALIBU—Musician Billy Preston, against whom criminal charges were filed in two separate sexual incidents last August, was charged Jan. 17 with using a knife to try to force a man to have sex with him.

The performer allegedly took a 38-year-old laborer home to work on his Malibu house and then used a knife to try to force him to engage in sex after showing him pornographic pictures.

Preston, 45, is known for the piano solo he played on the Beatles song "Get Back" and his own hit songs, "Will It Go Round In Circles," and "Nothing From Nothing." He also wrote the ballad, "You Are So Beautiful," which was recorded by Joe Cocker.

Catch Ball for Rue's House

LOS ANGELES—The third ball and benefit for Rue's House, "Sizzling Summer Ball," will take place July 18 at Jewel's Catch One. As before, it will be an evening of exhibitionists, voguers, female impersonators



BRUCE HUNT

and others "strutting their stuff" on the fashion runway.

The second ball, "The Catch One Is Burning II," was held Feb. 5, itself a sequel to "The Catch One Is Burning" which debuted last December. Each of the three events has been billed as a benefit for Rue's House, a facility founded by Rue Thaïs-Williams in 1989 to provide food, clothing, education

and a safe place to stay for women and children with AIDS or who are HIV positive.

The Catch One Is Burning II attracted over 300 participants.

First place winners in each category were: butch queen: Walter Williams; fem queen: Destiny; vogue: Warren; Afrocentric: Gael T.; couples: Jason and Claudia; international butch: Chasia; and Ms. Beverly Hills 90210: Bride of Beverly Hills.

Second place winners were: butch queen: Grace Jones; fem queen: Bambi of the House of Mercie and the Arena; vogue: Junior and Mother Bruce, both of the House of Bel Age; Afrocentric: Prince Amed; international butch: D. T. Williams; and Ms. Beverly Hills 90210: Crysti.

'Hits Home' Hits New York

NEW YORK—Cheryl L. Thompson's award-winning play, *Before It Hits Home*, a production of the Second Stage Theatre in association with the New York Shakespeare Festival, opened on March 10 at the Public Theatre.

Before It Hits Home concerns a black family in the mid-west that is forced to confront AIDS and homosexuality when their son returns home after a long absence. The play was the grand prize winner at the Multicultural Playwright's Festival in Seattle in 1989 and received its first professional production at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. last year.

James McDaniel, who originated the role of Paul in *Six Degrees of Separation*, plays the central role of Wendal Bailey, a bisexual jazz musician who learns that he has contracted AIDS. Also featured are Keith Randolph Smith and Sharon Washington as his respective clandestine and live-in lovers.

Black Solon Nixes Rights Law

NEW ORLEANS—Despite a no vote by Jacqueline Clarkson, the councilmember who represents the most predominantly lesbian and gay district in the city, an ordinance outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation passed the City Council Dec. 12 by a 5-2 vote. The law bans discrimination against lesbians and gay men in employment, housing and public places.

The ordinance, by Councilman Johnny Jackson Jr., amends a law adopted two decades ago. That law bans discrimination in public accommodations, such as restaurants, parks, theaters and hotels, and protection is limited to groups defined by race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry. In addition to covering housing and hiring, the amendment extends protection to groups defined by sex, age, marital status, creed, sexual orientation and handicap.

Clarkson, who is African-American, replaced Councilman Mike Early who retired last year. She said she voted against the measure because there wasn't a consensus of support from the community.

The ordinance requires complaints to go through the city's newly created Human Relations Commission for investigation. Violation of a city ordinance is a criminal misdemeanor. Jackson's ordinance does not specify penalties.

The council debated the ordinance for about six hours, hearing from dozens of impassioned speakers, equally split between proponents and opponents. Most opponents were

affiliated with religious groups that consider homosexuality morally wrong.

Supporters included many prominent civil rights activists, public officials and doctors who urged the council to think of the ordinance as a public health issue. Fear that they will lose their jobs or homes if revealed to be homosexual leads many gay men to avoid testing for the AIDS virus, which delays AIDS treatment, the doctors said.

—Dawn Ruth

Activist Charged with Murder

PHILADELPHIA—A local gay activist honored with the 1989 "Outstanding Emerging New Leader Award" is being held on \$200,000 bail as the suspect in the Jan. 20 murder of another community figure, Frank Griffin.

Shawn DeVearaux, 27, admitted inflicting the blows that claimed the life of Griffin, saying that it was in self defense. Both men were working at the time at Stars, a gay bar in the Center City section of Philadelphia. Griffin was a past recipient of an Outstanding Bar Service award; DeVearaux, whose legal name is John Allen, Jr., is an actor, playwright and drag performer.

DeVearaux wrote and performed in *Murder is a Drag*, where a drag queen commits murder with a hammer. The alleged murder weapon—a hammer—was located in a dumpster behind a restaurant just blocks away from the apartment DeVearaux and Griffin shared.

The district attorney's office plans to seek a capital murder charge that could result in the death penalty.

Lesbians, Gays in MLK Parade

SAN DIEGO—A record number of lesbians and gay men participated for the fourth year in San Diego's Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on Jan. 18.

In addition to the County Human Relations Manager Charles McKain, some two dozen representatives of a diverse cross section of San Diego's lesbian and gay community marched in a rainbow contingent. The parade has become a symbolic event each year since conservatives in this large military city defeated efforts to name a street after the slain civil rights leader. The two hour parade raises funds for the Alpha Phi Alpha scholarship fund for African-American college students.

During the parade, the lesbian and gay contingent of students, journalists, veteran activists, political clubs, politicians and activists of color were both cheered and booed. At one point in the parade, someone pelted them with ice. No arrests were made in the incident, nor were the perpetrators identified. The negative reactions were coming from a crowd of onlookers that were predominately African-American, although the contingent represents a coalition of gay and lesbian organizations that have been consistently supportive of the black community in a city where many agree racial tensions have been getting worse, not better.

Riggs, Spiro Win TV Grants

MINNEAPOLIS—Award winning documentary producers Marlon Riggs and Ellen Spiro have both won grants from the newly-created Independent Television News Service.

Riggs plans to use the grant to finish his newest project *Black Is...Black Ain't*, on the definition of blackness and black identity of African-Americans.

Spiro produced *DiAna's Hair Ego: AIDS Info Up Front*, a documentary on an African-American hairstylist who became an AIDS educator.

The ITVS was created by Congress to fund projects that increase the diversity of public broadcasting, especially "unserved and underserved audiences."

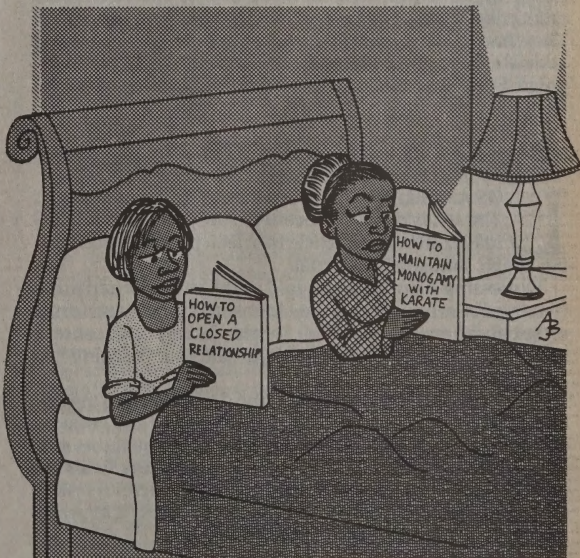
Right wing conservatives such as Donald Wildmon have already started to gear up their opposition to ITVS in the same way that they have to PBS.

S.F. Passes Anti-Carding Law

SAN FRANCISCO—Mayor Frank Jordan's first signature on legislation that directly concerns lesbians and gay men of color took place at a celebration on Jan. 28 attended by approximately 100 activists.

The new ordinance prohibits any establishment with a liquor license from demanding multiple forms of identification as a condition of entry. State law requires only a single form of identification for anyone in an establishment that serves alcohol, yet it has long been a practice of bars to demand ID only of "undesirable" patrons, which may include men and women of color. With the new San Francisco ordinance, the chief of police will have the authority to suspend the dance hall permit of any club which is found to have violated the statute.

The law was actually the brainchild of members of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA). It passed the vote by San Francisco's Board of Supervisors unanimously, joining the mountain of new legislation that awaited Mayor-elect Jordan on his first days in office. The ordinance was drafted by Mara Rosales-Cordova of the City Attorney's Office, based on a similar ordinance in the District of Columbia.



Doris Ward, president of the Board of Supervisors, noted that "carding" was a discriminatory practice that affected both lesbians and gay men as well as non-gay people of color.

Discriminatory entrance policies have been periodic problems in the past, when women and people of color often found themselves segregated in what has always been perceived to be the ultimate gay Mecca. The City of West Hollywood, on the other hand, passed a stringent anti-carding ordinance immediately after the city was incorporated in 1984. Supervisor Willie Kennedy praised LGADDA, saying that without their determinedness, the ordinance would not have come into being.

Braun Wins Illinois Primary

CHICAGO—Carol Mosely Braun has both stunned and inspired the voters in Illinois with her dramatic victory in the March 17 Democratic primary. This November may be the first election in American history to put an African-American woman in the United States Senate.

The voting record of outgoing incumbent Senator Alan Dixon, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, was 80 percent pro-gay through 1989 according to the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), but had slipped to 17 percent in the most recent ranking. Dixon was also being held accountable for his vote to confirm the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the United States Supreme Court.

Braun, on the other hand, has an outstanding history of supporting lesbian and gay rights, at least since 1978, according to Laurie Dittman, executive director of IMPACT, the statewide lesbian and gay political action committee in Illinois.

Braun has confirmed that she will sign on as a co-sponsor of the federal Lesbian and Gay Rights Bill her first day on the job in Washington, said Greg King of HRCF. The national organization has donated \$5000, the maximum amount allowed by federal law to the Braun campaign. They have actively worked on her campaign, contacting activists throughout the state. "The Human Rights Campaign Fund was there for me early," remarked a grateful Braun.

'Times' Denies 'NYQ' Report

LOS ANGELES—A sports editor with the *Los Angeles Times* has denied a recent report published in *NYQ* magazine that an article has been prepared that verifies Magic Johnson is bisexual.

Expressing surprise when told of the rumors circulating that the *Times* had interviewed Johnson's friends and former sex partners to verify the former Lakers star center's bisexuality, Sports Editor Bill Dwyer said that "nothing like that's going on."

The *Times* ran many articles in the days following the unprecedented announcement by Johnson last Nov. 7 that he was HIV positive, including a rundown in the business section of the 32-year-old multi-millionaire's vast financial holdings. Dwyer asserted, however, that if such an article was being prepared anywhere at the *L.A. Times*, "I'm pretty sure as sports editor I would know about it."

Chorus Achieves Success

LOS ANGELES—Although the Unity Fellowship Men's Chorus is achieving success on some fronts, the possibility of a recording contract with Sparrow Records remains undecided.



Begun just a year ago by Darren McCarroll-Jones, the 15-member chorus has completed a jingle for radio station FM92. In December, it came in second among ten finalists in Lawry's Seasonal Singers Search in Celebration of the African-American Heritage, winning a \$1000 cash donation for their church.

The Lawry's contest included a shot at a recording contract with Sparrow Records, a well-known gospel label based in Nashville, and a top prize of \$1500. But McCarroll-Jones, director of the chorus, said it was his understanding that the company doesn't want any controversial groups and is not signing any unmarried artists.

On the record, Vicki Mack, Sparrow's representative in Los Angeles, told BLK, "We sign groups that are controversial. Bebe and Cece are controversial. Tremaine [Hawkins] has been controversial. Our motto is: 'Sparrow Records. Where artists live what they sing.'" Speaking of not signing unmarried artists, Mack said, "that's not true."

But Mack did not answer questions about Sparrow's policy on lesbian and gay artists, asking that the queries be put in writing. No response to the written questions were received.

The Unity Fellowship Men's Chorus sings on the fourth Sunday of the month at Unity Fellowship Church. They also tour area hospitals regularly to visit and perform for patients.

BLK VEIL

OWEN LASHLEY ADUKIE, was born in 1967 and died in 1991 of AIDS related complications. Owen was a south London resident and activist in community. He worked actively with the London Lesbian and Gay Black Group and went public with his medical status on the BBC program, *From Wimps to Warriors*. Owen was known for his special dance style and his love for motorcycles.

LOUIS D. ASHLEY JR., founding director of the Glide Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, died at age 47. Ashley served on the boards of the West Oakland Health Center and the Oakland Crack Task Force and was on the AIDS advisory boards at Allen Temple Baptist Church and the Love Center's Arc of Love in Oakland. An ordained minister and gospel singer, Ashley worked within the church to increase awareness about AIDS in the black community. He is survived by four sisters and an aunt.

RORY BUCHANAN, born June 13, 1955, died Dec. 26, 1991. Buchanan, a New York resident, studied at the City University of New York and the Fashion Institute of Technology. His career ultimately expanded to education where he became the first health educator for the Minority Task Force on AIDS. He worked with many organizations including COPE-Men's Program, ADISA, ADODI New York, Gay Men of African Descent, Hetrick-Martin and Hospital Audiences. He is survived by a son, Jaison, his father, aunts, uncle and siblings.

JOSEPH ARTHUR BYRD JR. died Feb. 4 as reported in the *Seattle Gay News*. This Florida native was born Oct. 5, 1950, and moved to Seattle where he became actively involved with the GBLSA of the University of Washington, and the Puget Sound Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. Traveling across the world, Byrd lived in England, France and Germany. A lover of fine food, he was said to be an excellent cook and baker. Byrd was also a carpenter, seamstress and photographer. He is survived by his mother and others.

CRAIG GERRARD HARRIS, well-known activist and writer died Nov. 26, 1991, of AIDS related complications. Born and raised in New York, Harris traveled and worked in D.C. and New Jersey with various AIDS organizations. He was a founding board member of the National Minority AIDS Council. Harris's writings appeared in *Brother to Brother*, *In the Life* and the *Advocate*. In 1987, he was named an "Outstanding Young Man of America." The House of Africa awarded him the Humanitarian Award for service to New York's gay youth of color in the early part of 1991. Harris was 33.

ALEX EVANS died Mar. 17 of complications associated with AIDS. He was born Nov. 27, 1954 in New York where he attended elementary and high school. After moving to California at 17, he began work as in the entertainment and media fields as a background set designer and production accountant. Most recently he was employed by Devin Biles Design. Evans was a member of Unity Fellowship Church. He also assisted with the fundraising efforts of the Minority AIDS Project and posed for HIV prevention posters and brochures.

PAUL EVERETT, was born in Philadelphia Dec. 11, 1950 and died Jan. 17 of a heart attack. Everett was an ordained minister, educator, choreographer and performer. Living in Boston, he was active in the theater and performed in *Boy Meets Boy*, *Street Theatre*, *Boys in the Band*, *Franny: The Queen of Provincetown* and the lesbian soap opera *Two-in-Twenty*. Everett was the minister of music and the director of youth theater group for the United Community Church of Roxbury. He is survived by his mother, aunt and other relatives.

GREGORY ANTHONY JENKINS died Jan. 8, 1992 in Los Angeles of complications related to AIDS. Born Feb. 25, 1956 in New Orleans, Jenkins moved to California where he lived for several years. He was a member of Unity Fellowship of Christ Church. He is survived by his mother, Theresa Brown; stepfather, Odis Brown; grandmother Francis Jarreau; three brothers, Wilbert, Jr., James and Stephen; two sisters Mary Adams and Regina Jenkins; and other relatives. He is also survived by a very special friend, Clyde Slay.

KENNETH LAWRENCE MARSHALL was born Oct. 17, 1951 and died Dec. 21. He received his A.B. from Brown University, his J.D. from the Duke University and was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1976. Marshall worked for the Superior Court in Fulton County and

became an assistant district attorney in 1978. Active in community, Marshall was a founding member of BWMT/Atlanta, director of Planned Parenthood and chaired the "Home Front" Committee of AID/Atlanta. He was a member of West Hunter Baptist Church.

JOSEPH C. MAYHAN, who was born Mar. 23, 1950 in Daphne, Alabama, died Nov. 9, 1991 of AIDS associated complications at the Shanti House on Downey Street as disclosed in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Mayhan, who was 41 when he passed, moved to Southern California in the 1960s and to the bay area in the 1970s. He worked as a medical assistant, a staffing coordinator and a nurse. Mayhan was an avid San Francisco Giants and 49er fan. He is survived by his mother, two brothers, a sister and two aunts.

"BILL" MITCHELL, died Dec. 17, 1991 at Davies Hospital as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. He is survived by his mother, Bertha; brother, Eldridge; and many friends.

J. KENNETH MOORE was born in Los Angeles, April 13, 1949, where he lived and worked until his death on Oct. 21, 1991. Although Moore enjoyed a long career with Home Savings of America, he was active with various community organizations including the Kiwanis Club, NAACP, the Urban League, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and Gentlemen Concerned, where he served as vice president for two years. He is survived by his mother and other relatives. He is also survived by his good friend, Rich Coopedge.

TRACY MARIE OLIPHANT, was born April 22, 1962 and was murdered Jan. 30. She was 29. Oliphant studied cosmetology and worked in designing a variety of styles for numerous hair shows. She is survived by her daughter, her mother, two sisters, a host of other family members and a very special friend, Belinda Thompson.

NORMAN WINSOR POE, born May 25, 1940, died Oct. 28, 1991, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Originally from Virginia, Poe lived in New York, Santa Cruz and San Francisco. His expertise included gourmet cooking. Poe, who enjoyed traveling, was 51 when he died.

CEDRIC SANDIFORD, died Nov. 19, 1991, in New York just two days after returning from Nairobi, Kenya where he had sought treatment for AIDS with the controversial drug Kemron. Sandiford was a victim in the infamous 1986 Howard Beach attack. He is survived by his wife and 6 children. He was 41.

JAMES EDWARD SIMMS, died Feb. 15, of AIDS related complications according to the *Washington Blade*. Simms obtained his master's from the University of the District of Columbia. He was a teacher at the D.C. Society for Crippled Children and later for Sharpe Health. He loved to travel and visited many countries including France, Guatemala and Belize. Simms was honored by American University, the Organization of African and African-American Students. He is survived by his companion of 14 years, David Maplesden.

STEVE LEONSOON, died Jan. 24, of AIDS associated complications as reported in *Gay Chicago* magazine. Born Nov. 8, 1949 in Trinidad and educated in interior design in New York, LeonSoon settled in Chicago where he established his own business, Interiors By Steve. He was involved in the design and planning of everything from retail stores for clients such as I. Magnin, to luxury condos along the Gold Coast and North Shore, to homes of his friends. He is survived by his parents, three sisters and two brothers.

EDDIE SPENCER, died Sept. 6 of complications associated with AIDS as reported in the *Washington Blade*. Receiving his B.S. from the School of Business at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1978, Spencer moved to Wash. in 1980. Hired as a civilian, he worked for both the Naval Weapons Engineering and Naval Air divisions for the Navy. An active community participant, Spencer was a member of Best Friends and worked to raise funds for the fight against AIDS by sharing his photographs at an exhibit. He was 36.

HAROLD HIAWATHA WILKENS, died Nov. 20, 1991, of complications associated with AIDS as reported in *Philadelphia Gay News*. Raised in Philadelphia, Wilkins attended school and pursued a career as a cosmetologist. After receiving his license, Wilkins worked as a stylist in West Philadelphia. He spent a few years in the Job Corps. Mount Zion Baptist Church was his church home. Wilkins was 33.

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BLK TEA

BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

We used to have lurid fantasies about bus drivers. They seemed so masterful, guiding those big, long engines in and out, thru deep tunnels and down narrow ramps marked, "slippery when wet." So in control, yet so accessible. But what is this with bus drivers in L.A.? Everywhere we go: Seattle, San Diego, Denver, the bus drivers are delicious to us—except L.A. Even New York's infamously dour reputation fell by the wayside when our bus driver got us safely, chattily across Brooklyn (in fact he wouldn't shut up). San Francisco even has a Gay Bus Drivers Association! But beware, L.A. bus drivers are into heavy S & M—and they don't play safety codewords either. We're told that Angelenos figure that anyone who has to use the bus deserves what they get... Don't touch that dial! FM 92 in L.A. was kind enough to air a dedication recently from John to Terrence, "We're Gonna Make It" without any negative feedback, apparently. Now where's our dedication list for "Things That Make You Go Hmmmmmm?" Seems **Willie Brown**, the controversial black California Assembly Speaker, Best Dressed man in Sacramento (and HNIC) is the recipient of \$68,000 in campaign donations from the tobacco industry, those pals of racist, homophobic (and now ailing) Sen. **Jesse Helms**. Miss Willie got a third of the money that the tobacco lobbies donated in the state. 'Course, he's also co-

authoring a bill to legalize needle exchange programs, so maybe the joke'll be on Bro' Jesse...A scholarship fund has been organized to remember **Howard W. Morris**, a nurse in Washington, D.C. who passed away recently. The Howard W. Morris, Jr. Scholarship Fund will be administered by his sister, Katrina Morris, and may be contacted at 1371 Peabody St., N.W. #201, Washington, D.C. 20011...There's more on that black and Latino dating service we mentioned last time. **Dark Side/True Colors Introductions**, as it's called, isn't satisfied just to provide phone and mail contacts. They're also throwing parties. The contact line is still 212-246-3811, but the party line is 212-696-8666...Did we say par-tee? The mother of all beach parties materializes July 4, once again by the waters of Malibu. Remember how last year's 2000 plus crowd spooked Malibu's finest into wanting to break up the city's largest gathering of black faggots and dykes, then scared it into leaving the party alone? We guess they learned you don't fool with law-abiding black people who have come to have a good time, lest they decide not to remain law-abiding.

Carlton Youngblood, manager since time immemorial of **Jewel's Catch One** has left. To bid him a fond, or at least a final *adieu*, the club threw a *bon voyage* party for him, which the guest of honor himself emceed. Black folks have a

strange way of simmering sorrow and joy in the same pot, and this farewell fling played like a lonely high note on a silver sax: the blues bubbled. Among those present to perform and/or reminisce about good times at the old stomping grounds were the ubiquitous **Claudette Sexy DJ**...And **Miss "T"** was there, wearing a black velour bolero hat with gold trim from Chapeau Designs, which went smartly with her white jacket and long skirt. All she needed was a banana daiquiri. Or at least a banana...**Warren Sims**, who was *vogueing* just fine as long as he was merely modeling *kinte* haberdashery, has now gone and acquired a *nom de noir* from the Motherland, **Ajamu**, which we suppose we must learn to enunciate...Speaking of which, **Consuela, Afri-**

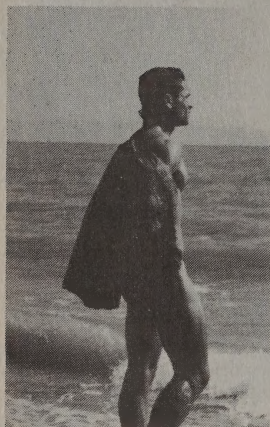
canus americana transexualis, glided in for a perfect landing on the airpockets beneath her flawless, saucer-shaped cheekbones. She was followed closely by a bosom buddy of equally negotiable gender swathed in black, booted in silver *lamé* heels up to her tush and wearing pendulum earrings which orbited her black burnished face like satellites. Hair done up *en chignon*, the side wisps were twirled so fine that the jheriqueens better be careful or the *S. Temple* curl will be makin' a comeback. Girlfriend was truly *afire!*... After the show, Carlton let 'em dance as, one-by-one, he hugged each goodbye. Stay black, be back, brother-man...

What's that? What did we think of the black gay conference held in Oakland



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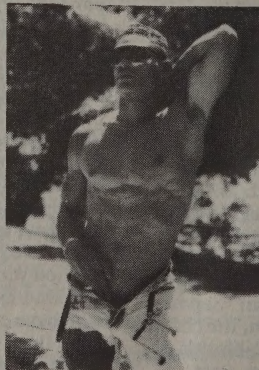
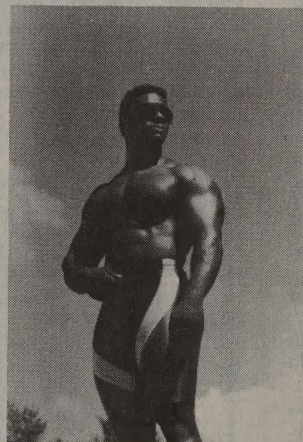
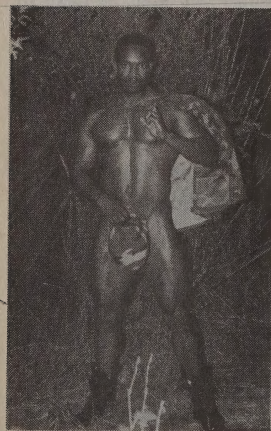
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over the soggy St. Valentine's Day weekend? *Which one?* Yes there were *two*. At opposite ends of town. Odd coincidence, ain't it? We hear several truly dedicated brothers tried to attend both the **Black Men's Xchange** meeting on Pill Hill and the one held by the **Leadership Forum** (complete with lesbians) at the Airport Hilton but just couldn't be in two places at once—which was clearly the intent. Nonetheless, it's a tribute to black folks that when we want to run ourselves ragged nobody can wear us out like we can. Of course, leadership at both confabs claim they were successful. BMX's involved more soul-searching and planning for the organization. BGLLF's focused on skills-building workshops. One flowed, the other overflowed. BMX/Denver sent a delegation of eight, BMX/Sacramento a half dozen. Founder **Cleo Manago** brought his lawyer-Mom. **Greg Coleman** and **Joe Hawkins** of L.A. drew praise for their skillful facilitation, but Joe resigned as the organization's nat'l coordinator. Some folks were deeply intrigued about a geometry problem presented at the gathering; The way it was told to us, a certain Oakland BMXer one day visited BMX/LA where he met a handsome couple, one of whom he so bedazzled that a substitution of one for the other was made. The new lovers set up house in Oakland and they lived happily ever after—until the BMX Gathering. Well the third side of this inter-city triangle unexpectedly intersected the other two at the Oakland gathering. What the outcome was we couldn't say-math is so complicated... Meanwhile, back at the Forum, nearly 700 people were in attendance, far more than local or nat'l planners had expected.

They switched from the Clarion to the Hilton, but some workshops were closed, not everyone could be seated for lunch or to hear speakers. But the worst was the banquet held in one of Chinatown's swankiest restaurants. Those seated on the west side of the stuffy room were served (squad) *charnière au lit de riz l'eau-nuage* (roast squab on a bed of steaming rice) at 8 o'clock. Those on the east side were served *carré-froid sur légumes saturés* (cold carcass on soggy vegetables) at 10 p.m. Service was provided by a quaint mix of Forum volunteers and Chinese waiters who seemed afraid of both the crowd and the food they were serving. Instead of distracting the restless diners by bringing on the entertainment early, the entire score of songs and dances from the musical, *Children of the Night*, was performed after dinner so the awards program dragged on until after midnight, the only compensation being the skill, voices and delectable limbs of the cast. Forum chairwoman **Ruth Harris** prevented a riot only with a dignified apology to the crowd. That and the fact that 92-year-old **Ruth Ellis** led the way to the dance floor afterward. Then on Sunday, **Blackberri** led the conference in singing the theme song he composed, but didn't get paid for. Later, poet **Assotto Saint** heckled Nat'l Blk Psychologists Assn. prez **Tim Meringue** as he spoke tearfully about the loss of a cousin to AIDS. Assotto then rose and asked that everyone who was "living with AIDS" stand up, but grew angry when, apparently, some PWAs didn't 'fess up...

We are too tired of all you children who complain about how **Michael**

Jackson trips. Don't let anybody tell you black folk ain't in to Michael no mo' cuz it ain't even so; we diss the *boydoll* in the light and dance to him all night. Y'all can't stand the packaging but won't stop buying the package...It must be true cuz the stars are sayin' it, well, at least the *Star* is sayin' it, all over America's grocery stands; **Arsenio Hall's** halfway to the altar—with a *woman*. At 34, the tabloid says he suddenly got engaged following the HIV diagnosis of his pal/idol, **Magic Johnson**, and the revelation that his main man, **Eddie Murphy** is about to wed. Arsenio's rumored bride-to-be, actress **Rosalia Hayakawa**, is almost everything but black; half Japanese and half *mestizo* (Spanish and Indian). The *Star* says he doesn't like to be seen out with her and he has to practice wearing a wedding ring to get used to the idea of being married. We think somebody better tell him to get used to *this*; some square pegs just won't *ever* fit right in certain round holes...And speaking of the world's most famous HIV+ person, if you want to meet **Magic**, hang out at the

Sports Club L.A., the gym that costs a couple of thou to get in and includes valet parking. (It's in L.A., remember.)...**Eddie Murphy**, meanwhile, hangs out at **Morton's**, one of the entertainment crowd's favorite eateries. But probably not on Saturday night, when only those on the C, D and E lists show up...This item from the *Advocate*: "Scour the back streets of Hollywood and scope out that certain fading black movie star whose current movies aren't as amusing as his earlier ones; he's looking for transvestite alley cats to kiss, chat up, and mentally masturbate" ...**Prince** watchers can see their man and his manhood in last year's Oct. 1 issue of the *Globe*. We're told some stories in the tabloids are fake, but we doubt if this photo is.

It's only six months left 'til Christmas. My, how time passes when you're having fun trying to have fun. We had barely finished drooling over the swimsuit catalogs, when the first Christmas card solicitation hit our mailbox. The tasteful offerings (yawn) were a far cry from



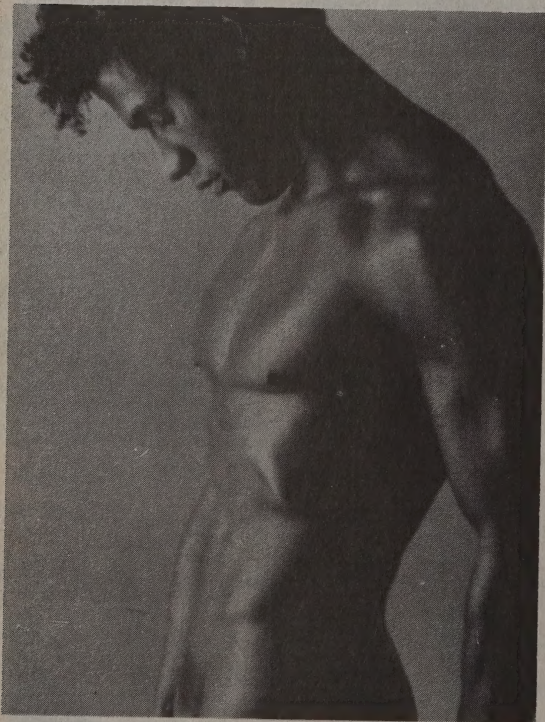
the shocking missives we personally received last year. Take the one from **Zebra Studios** of Chicago. No sleighs, no Santa Clauses. Just a tall black man with a nice white shirt, dark pants and tie, except that his dick was hanging out, Mapplethorpe style. The man in question was **Michael Allen** who we hear is usually seen around Chicago head to toe in leather...Somewhat more modest were those inspired by **In Living Color** and sold by L'Image Graphics. One featured **Blaine** and **Antoine** waving "Men on Christmas wish you a well hung mistletoe and two snaps up! Merry Christmas" ...And speaking of cards, we got a package from a company called First Blush. One card features a black woman lips to lips with a giant image of a white woman. We're not

sure what that means, but it was nice to see the sister anyway...We were quite impressed with the slick mailing from **Shocking Gray**, a non-pornographic mail order catalog of clothes, stationery and gift items all directed to lesbians and gay men. A sort of Sharper Image in Lavender. We were even impressed with the inclusion of one man who might be Latino, one who might be Asian and a woman who might be black or Latina. No black men were included, however, ambiguous or otherwise.

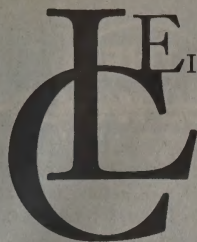
During February's two black gay conferences in Oakland, one business thrived which had, only months before, been threatened with closure. **Cabel's Reef**, long popular with black gays for its, shall we say, charmingly *diverse*

crowd, was the object of neighborhood ire because of the high crime rate and transient population which hovered in its vicinity. Owner **Jack Everhart** told us he had been able to calm things down...**Marilyn T.**, a 32-year-old white lesbian musician announced that she was dropping the form of musical poetry she had performed and called "rap" for several years because she had been criticized by a Jamaican woman who found her work "disgusting" calling it "plagiarism"...On a Sunday in late May, participants in workshops set up by **AWA** (As We Are, a photographers' collective which includes black gays) were invited to set up their cameras in San Diego. AWA promised it would be "providing at least three well-built, symmetrical and classically proportioned models, each with highly defined musculature and a proven ability to move both gracefully and athletically for the camera." Hmm-hm. From what we hear none of the photographers left the session, uh, *unsatisfied*. And so the group is doing it again—in Big Bear this time—July 19. Call 310-885-0429 for info...We're *pissed* that **Paris is Burning** and **Tongues Untied**, both groundbreaking films about black gay men which won crossover kudos, got dissed by Oscar and Emmy, those tired Hollywood queens who've been willing to go home with anybody else when the price was right. True, other excellent films failed to get nominated either, but indignant outrage begins in the same place charity oughta...Our sister media-queens, **Blaine** and **Antoine**, have been droppin' hairpins and spillin' tea all over the telly; During the **Super Bowl** (whatever *that* is) the two *In Living Color* characters impersonated track star

Carl Lewis and movie star, **Richard Gere**, as they played a little, uh, ball. The implication that the two celebrities are closet cases was unmistakable. Blaine's crack that Lewis could, "run, honey, but you can't hide—from your true self!" would have been truly scandalous if it had been news to anybody...In Chicago, **Stephanie Stephens** continues as the prime mover in producing the *Literary Express*, a major source of prose & poetry comin' from and headin' into the black lesbian experience. Its women's collective occasionally networks with **Group Dialogue**, whose newsletter is edited by **Michael Powell** and whose membership meet monthly *en salon* for dinner and discourse. Partyin' continues fierce at the city's favorite stand-bys, **Pan-gea** in New Town and **Bistro II**, Uptown, while the **Clubhouse** has become the jam of jams since it opened last autumn. Still, the loss nearly a year ago of **Frederick McClain** of the local chapter of NCBGL, and of **Steve Handy**, pastor of Affinitas, sapped much of the activist energy of the Windy City's black gay community. **Darnell Bonds** and **Ernest Hite** of the **AIDS Awareness Group** and of **Image Plus**, respectively, have done much to heal and restore. Hold tight, sisters and brothers...We've grown too too bored with **George Bush** lately, who first denies there's a recession, then promises to cure it by lowering taxes on yachts. All his lies have twisted the meaning of "Read my lips" into "Bend over, baby." Our column needs a new, less tainted title. So henceforward we invite you, dear reader, to lift that pinkie aloft, aim your dish low and join us every month for a little taste of BLK TEA...



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Researchers needed: for a study on attractiveness and sexual appeal across the life span. Questionnaires are available from: Esther Rothblum, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405. (36)

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ORGANIZATIONS

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Club F-Frottage. Multicultural social group for frottage men (rubbing). The Center, 208 W. 13th St., NYC. First Thursdays, 8 p.m. (35)

Lesbian soccer players wanted for multi-ethnic team. Gay Games 1994. 408-279-0974. (35)

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 619-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 619-475-4407. (36)

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. ☎ 140. (E)

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Accounting Clerk sought by the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. This individual will be responsible for data entry, typing, filing and light bookkeeping. 1-2 yrs acctg exp., 45 wpm, knowledge of computer systems. \$8.00 per hour. Send resume to: The Center, 1213 N. Highland, Los Angeles, CA 90038; Attn: Personnel. (36)

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Director for L.A. office of national lesbian/gay rights legal organization. Oversees administration, fundraising and legal program for four-person office. Law degree, administrative skills required; fundraising preferred. \$50,000 plus benefits. Resume and writing sample by 6/5/92 to: Kevin Cathcart, Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, 666 Broadway, NYC 10012. Women, people of color, people with disabilities encouraged to apply. (36)

Editor. BLK is seeking an experienced Editor to assume responsibility for the content and quality of the magazine and for supervision of all editorial departments. Requirements: B.A. in journalism or related field, or equivalent non-college experience. Magazine or news writing experience, proven ability to work independently and to set and meet strict deadlines, and knowledge of African-American as well as lesbian and gay issues are essential. Experience with volunteers and strong people skills is required, and supervisory or management experience is preferred. Computer skills a plus. Salary \$16-18,000. Hours negotiable. Part time okay, if work gets done. Send letter of application, resume, writing and editing samples to Alan Bell, BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. BLK is especially interested in hearing from women applicants. (36)

Executive Director sought by the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center. Seeking a skilled administrator with track record in fundraising, advocacy, fiscal planning and diversity management. Salary \$65-80,000; start date September, 1992. Send resume and references to Rose Greene, Chair, Search Committee, c/o GLCSC, 1213 N. Highland Ave., L.A., 90038. Deadline for application June 30, 1992. (36)

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Qualified hotline counselors needed immediately. Experience and/or appropriate education. Generous compensation. Call 213-356-0027. (36)

Sports Writer. BLK is looking for a neophyte or experienced journalist to cover sports in the black lesbian and gay community across the country. A major focus will be ongoing coverage of Gay Games '94. If you're willing to put in time for basically expenses only, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (34)

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Get paid for your work. Sexy black gay male fiction wanted for BLACKfire, a new bimonthly magazine of black gay erotica. Re-live your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Photography also accepted. Payment upon publication. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

New documentary explores gay sex before and after AIDS; Producers seek interviewees and footage. "A Geography of Desire," a new documentary currently in production by New York filmmaker Robert Rosenberg, explores the sexual lives and worlds of gay men from the 1970s through the present day. The producers are seeking men willing to be interviewed on camera about their sexual experiences for possible inclusion in the piece. Potential interviewees, as well as people with visual materials for use in the documentary, are encouraged to contact the producers. "A Geography of Desire" will include as wide a range of sexual experience as possible. For further information contact: Robert



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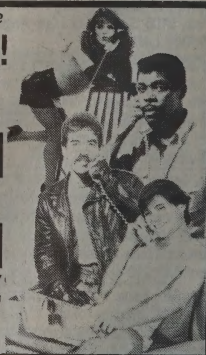
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You may place a printed personal ad of up to 30 words in BLK FREE if you also place a FREE message on BLK's TALKING PERSONALS. Call toll-free 1-800-937-7928 to record your personal greeting. Your FREE ad and FREE personal greeting may not include a phone number or address.

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When you record your FREE personal greeting, you will be assigned a mailbox number. Write that number in the space below. Next, write the text of your ad in the space above. Your FREE printed ad will run in BLK for three issues.

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Personals which don't qualify for free and all other ads (except employment) are paid at the rate of 40¢ per word. Employment ads are 10¢ per word. Ads may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Minimum for credit card billing is \$15. Do not send cash. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$3 (within California \$1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad.

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Rosenberg, Producer or Tal McThenia, Associate Producer 718-783-8432. (36)

All gay and lesbian poets, writers and artists are invited to submit poetry, fiction, non-fiction (interviews, essays, etc.), art, black and white photos, book/magazine reviews for Chiron Review's upcoming all Gay and Lesbian issue. Please send your best work. No taboos. Deadline: Aug. 1, 1992. Send to "Special Issue" Chiron Review, Rt. 2, Box 111, St. John, KS 67576-2212. Must include SASE for return of material or reply. If response is good, we will make this an annual thing. (36)

"The Evergreen Chronicles" is the only magazine in the nation dedicated to publishing the visual and literary artistic endeavors of both gays and lesbians. We publish short stories and plays, poetry, creative non-fiction, drawing and photography. Writers and artists should send 4 copies of literary work, or clean reproductions (visual arts) by July 1, 1992, to The Evergreen Chronicles, Box 8939, Minneapolis, MN 55408. (36)

Fiction, poetry and essays from our many perspectives are sought for the anthology "Coloring Outside The Lines: Writings by Mixed-Blood and Multiracial Women of Color." Thought a contract hasn't been signed, Aunt Lute Books has expressed extreme interest in this work. Submissions may be in any language but must include an English translation due to editorial limitations. Submissions must be typed, double spaced or neatly printed. Please submit two copies of all your work; up to five pieces may be submitted. We will accept previously printed work, but priority will be given to unpublished work. Please include a brief bio, and send a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) by June 30, 1992 (mention any special needs or questions) to either of the editors: Kate Miller, 224 Minor Ave. N. #A, Seattle, WA 98109, or Jamie Lee Evans, 482 44th St., Oakland, CA 94609. (36)

Submissions wanted for Multicultural Lesbian Relationships anthology. First person writings, cassettes of dialogues o.k. Can request interview. Some topics of interest: racism within and outside relationship; having/raising children; socializing/friendships; language differences, etc. Contact: Rene Dawson & Terri Jewell, Co-editors, Box 23154, Lansing MI 48909. SASE required with all correspondence. (38)

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Black ex-marine bodybuilder. Super hung, 21-year-old Cody Cherokee (see ad on inside back cover) has intimate photos available for sale. Send \$5 for nude sample plus catalog to Cherokee, Box 107, Miami, FL 33233. (35)

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Bad bold black men! For introductory set (10 men, 10 photos), send age (21+), signature, \$10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (38)

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Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: \$4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

BLACKfire, a new bimonthly magazine of black gay erotica. \$5.95 plus \$1.05 shipping/handling. BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just \$15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042. State you are 21. (37)

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Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, \$40 in West Hollywood, \$7 out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (34)

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Gay Voice Personals! Hear over 1000 personals of gay men in the area codes of your choice for 95 cents per minute (charged to your phone bill) at 900-776-6966, or 75 cents per minute (charged to your Visa or MasterCard) at 800-333-6966. You may leave your own personal for free at the 800 number above. When prompted for an ad code, enter 515. (36)

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. \$40/sex month, \$60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (E)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Professional, intelligent feminine GB lady seeks career oriented, goal seeking women for friendship, correspondence, travel and good conversation. Occupant, Box 2784, Dale City, VA 22193. (36)

GBM seeking femme, 55+, non-smoker, drugfree, sincere, independent. Into travel, shows, quiet times. Various interests. MW, Box 31703, Baltimore, MD 21207. (36)

Ghanian lesbian, 22, wants penpal, all ages. Write Joan, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana. (37)

GBM seeking Bi/lesbian female for friendship. Box 32624, Long Beach, CA 40832. #1035. (36)

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. #145. (E)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Young black scholar seeks sponsor(s) to finish important project: ph. 809-769-2910; Box 22749, U.P.R. Sta., San Juan, PR 00931. (36)

Aussie koala bear, 34, bottom, into B&D, S&M and more, wishes to correspond with GBM top into this and more. Age, looks aren't important; imagination and stamina are. Would also like to hear from GBM bottoms into the same. Cum on guys. Greg, Box 2361, Sydney NSW, Australia 2001. (38)

White Australian man, age 34, seeks black man between 35-45 with moustache or beard and non-smoker. Send photo. Box 645, Mawson, A.C.T. 2607, Australia. (36)

Dutch man, 37, white, blond, slim, 5'11", 72 kg., serious, honest and sincere, likes music, arts, reading, animals, nature, wants to correspond with guys any age up to 45 who also believe that honesty and faith are they key-words for building up a friendship. Please write to: Nico, Postbus 254, 1600 AG Enkhuizen, Holland. (36)

BGM, 23, 6'4½", cut, slightly chubby, coming out. Loves to read black gay novels and books, i.e. "Brother to Brother." I love soul-rock music, black gay porno videos. You must be black, masculine, 25-35 years old, over 6' tall, HIV-, cut. No bisexuals or married queens. I'll only reply to people who send a preferably nude picture and name to: Dele Alade, 88 Seymour Ave., Tottenham, London N17 9ED, England. (37)

GWM, 35, 5'9", 170#, attractive, masculine, blue eyes, dark blond hair, bearded, very friendly, humorous, intelligent, open-minded, seeks new friends, travel contacts or more? T.H., Box 39083, Pt. Grey R.P.O., Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P1, Canada. (36)

GWM, 25, seeks GBM, Box 500130, W-6, Frankfurt, Germany. (36)

GWM, 38, 5'10", 165#, athletic, hairy body, dark balding hair, green eyes, moustache, attractive, friendly, well-traveled, multilingual, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, hung, warm, sincere, straight-acting, Greek passive GBM for fun, friendship, visits. Other races welcome. Photo please. Atlan, 8 Passage Lathuille, 75018, Paris, France. (36)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Black is sexy and that's what I love. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6V 4A5, Canada. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Fine black men wanted. Box 370171, Birmingham, AL 35237. (34)

Stocky brunettes wanted in Birmingham. MDC, 16th Ave., North Birmingham, AL 35204. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

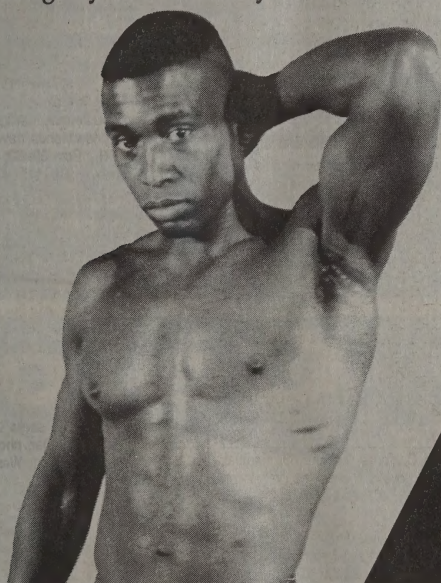
Seek handsome gay top man of color for live in lover, drug/nicotine free, \$ stable, over 35, furry a +. Jim, GWM, 63, F/AP, G/P, Tucson, AZ. #160. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

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POSITION: Executive Director, starts September 1, 1992.

The Los Angeles chapter of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD/LA) is a non-profit, community-based organization that promotes accurate and balanced media portrayals and coverage of lesbians and gay men, and counters defamatory statements and portrayals.

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 - Fundraising experience/participation
 - Experience in managing diversity

Resumé, salary history and reference letters must be received by July 7, 1992. Send to: **Search Committee, GLAAD/LA, P.O. Box 931763, Hollywood, CA 90093.** All applications and inquiries will be held in strict confidence. GLAAD/LA is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity. Women and people of color are encouraged to apply.

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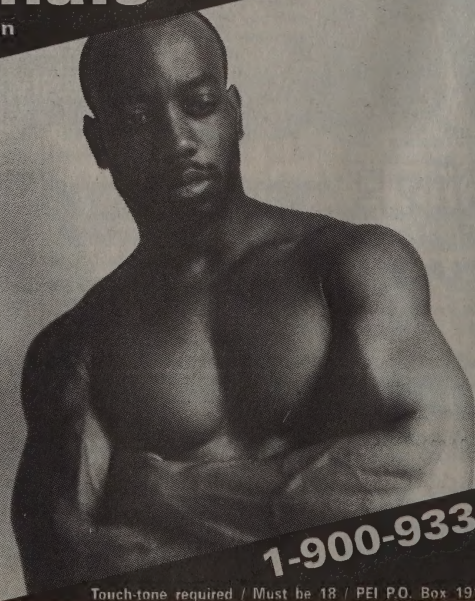
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Northern California

Attractive GBM, 26, 5'10", 165#, looking for attractive Latino or GBM in the East Bay area. Masculine, versatile Latino or GBM need apply. Photo and phone # a must. ♀ 3335. (38)

GWM, 30, 5'8", top seeks bottom, San Francisco area, Robert. ♀ 3120. (38)

GBM, 150#, 5'5" short but deep bottom, bubble butt and attractive, seeks top Bi or GBM for friendship and fun. Photo welcome and returned. Write Box 30762, Oakland, CA 94604. (37)

Robert, Bay Area, seeks single BM, 20-35. ♀ 3366. (38)

What's up? Mike, 27, 5'7", 162, goodlooking, medium brown complexion, seeks masculine, nice equipt BM. Peace. ♀ 3303. (38)

GBM, 25, 5'10", 160, nice bod, seeks any race 18+ for pool at the Eagle Creek or Pendulum. Jessie. ♀ 3126. (38)

BGM, 36, 5'11", 155, romantic and mature, looking for BM 28-40 for friendship and monogamous relationship. ♀ 3318. (38)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Me too; let's talk. Louis. 415-474-5377. (38)

GWM, 31 y/o, top, 5'8", would like to meet GBM, bottom, in San Francisco, preferably smooth and dark. Objective: knockin' boots. Call 415-431-0938. (36)

BM, 25 y/o, well end, stays on top all night. Loves to be sucked by all ages, all nationalities. ♀ 3371. (38)

Anthony, 26, 5'10", 165, seeks attractive masculine or versatile Latino or GBM in E. Bay area. ♀ 3335. (38)

GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'6", 37, warm, loving and extremely affectionate. I'm seeking a serious 1-on-1 partner who enjoys romance, bike-riding, theatre, and quiet evenings. ♀ 3349. ♀ 168. (38)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Let's talk. Louis. 415-474-5377. (36)

San Diego Area

GBM, 47, wants to meet 40+ GBM. Seriously. Answer machine: 619-324-5450. (36)

Mature, professional, fun-loving GBM, 28, seeks similar GWM or Latino. Mike B., 619-297-0467 or Box 3658, San Diego, 92163. (36)

Free fone J/O submissive seeks dominator. 619-292-1922. (36)

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-521-1341. (40)

Hot, desert topman (GWM): masculine,

oversexed stud! "Mac," 619-343-1220. (36)

Handsome, healthy, discreet sexually-young 60 Italian Bi/GWM, GrP/FrA bot, seeks sincere, mature 55+, Bi/GBM top for friendship? Serious replies w/pix/photo answered promptly. Ben, Box 249, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. ♀ 1040. (35)

BIBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

Very masculine, handsome, appealing top, BM, 30, independent, considerate and successful. Seeking others who are clever, passionate and sincere. I enjoy men who are under 37, under 170#, under 6'1" and aBUNdant in the right areas (round BUNS). I'm looking for you for some healthy fun and? Call Lee at 310-6009-1876. I travel. (36)

BGM, 37, 5'6", 155, loves to mingle, give Dwayne a call. ♀ 3117. (38)

BGM, 6', 40, masculine bottom likes hard body tops who like to freak. Eddy. ♀ 3124. (38)

Are you genuine, honest? BM, 21, 5'6", nice, clean student, new to L.A., into music, movies. Interested in Latinos, blacks for friendships, fun (going out, quiet times, ??); serious only. ♀ 161. (36)

Blk/brother, 160#, 5'8", gym member looking for partner who is also gym member for workouts. Peace! ♀ 3125. (38)

GWM, 53, seeks GBM, same age or older. John: 310-842-3989. (36)

WARNING! INMATE SCAMS

Down through the years, BLK has received a significant number of complaints from readers who've been the victims of financial and other scams perpetrated by prisoners.

The postal authorities offer these guidelines to help you avoid becoming a victim of inmate manipulation of your trusting nature:

1. Any type of financial arrangement entered into with an inmate should be highly suspect, especially those in which the inmate requests financial favors, i.e., cashing postal money orders.

2. Money orders received from inmates should be immediately returned to them without cashing.

3. If you feel that you have been or are being victimized by an inmate initiated money order cashing scheme immediately contact the nearest Postal Inspector or Postmaster.

BLK strongly advises readers to use the utmost caution when corresponding with inmates.

BLK cannot be held responsible for any financial loss or physical injury that may result from such correspondence.

White bottom, 29, 5'9", 145#, very good-looking masculine HIV- athletic mountain bicyclist racer, with very well developed and very cleanhaven legs/butt, seeks BM athletic HIV- hung 9+ and thick for some hard long riding. Scott: 714-222-4931 (38)

Anthony, 6'3", 195, seeks blk masc. top. You won't be disappointed. ♀ 3305. (38)

Gordon, 5'11", 190, dark blonde, blue eyes, bubble-butt bottom seeks quality black tops. ♀ 3307. (38)

GWM, 35, 6'2", 195, athletic, attractive, financially secure, enjoys sports, movies, new to area, seek BM 20-40. ♀ 3324. (38)

GBM built like football player, hung long and thick 11x7½, seeks other hot hung men for safe good times. Drake: 213-734-2042. (36)

Edwardo, 34, 5'10", 160, light brown skin, short hair, goodlooking, homebody, top man, looking for someone to workout with in more ways than one. ♀ 3322. (38)

Yo! Yo! Yo! Jeff ½ black and ½ Puerto Rican, suburbs of Detroit, 10' piece, waiting and ready to do the wild thang with other home boys. ♀ 3328. (38)

BM 25, 5'10", 165, whatup? Masculine looking for same. ♀ 3337. (38)

Attractive, masculine, healthy, educated, Southern cocoa brown male, 34, 5'9", 165#, hot sexy build, creative budding screenwriter, UCLA grad student, seeks romantic jungle fever in Los Angeles with a handsome, hairy, muscular, clean-cut blond type professional, thirtysomething who enjoys sweaty jazz nights, whip cream baths, candlelight, beaches and sweet monogamy. Michael. ♀ 3338 or 3339. ♀ 167. (38)

Sexy WM, 30, wants to meet well built hung black tops for fun times. Call Wesley: 310-987-4088. (37)

Two GWMs, 40s, looking for 3rd for fun & safe sex. Reply: Box 885, Winchester, CA 92596. (36)

Black men are nicer, sexier, and more fun. Call or write to this good-looking blond and prove it. Lee. ♀ 3316. ♀ 162. (38)

Handsome black man, straight appearing, sexy with dancer's build, 5'8", 150#, well groomed, short hair, beard, moustache, hairy, hot and loves sex, wants sexy top black or masculine bottom in shape. ♀ 3336. ♀ 166. (38)

Eugene, slender, tall, ebony artist, seeks aggressive man. No boozers or losers, no thugs or drugs, no chubbies or hobbies. ♀ 3373. (38)

Richard, 26, 6'3", 190, brown skin, attractive, enjoys hitting the gym, mountain biking, movies, hiking. Looking for someone similar. ♀ 3372. (38)

Dale, BM, 42 y/o, 5'9", 170, workout with weights, looking for big buff brothers. I like to massage from traps to toes. ♀ 3368. (38)

Masculine, educated GWM, middle-aged,

5'9", 155#, in good shape, likes muscular GBM, 30+ for dates, outdoor sports and indoor fun, safe-sex, dinners, movies. Dave: 213-650-4547. (36)

Gay male, 38, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce, 310-338-9695. (TF)

Lauren, young hot black buck, seeks top hot black urban cowboy to teach me the finer points of riding 6'2", 190 lbs. of black/Hispanic man. I'll supply the saddle. You bring the boots and the riding crop. ♀ 3115. (38)

Michael, 6', 185, muscular, masculine, attractive B/M seeks BM/WM 22-30. ♀ 3008. (38)

GBM looking for that special someone: you must be masculine, friendly, honest and affectionate. Serious only. No fats or feds please. 213-931-3412. (36)

Ron, WM, 5'7", 165, med build, brown/blue, very sensuous bottom, great massage, seeks HIV-, attractive, hung, well built BM. ♀ 3341. (38)

To Afro-leathermen: if you would truly like to be in a relationship that is all about the look, the feel, and the attitude of leather, with a mature white male who genuinely cares, then call me now for an interview that will give us both a chance to prove it. Michael: 213-684-5811. (36)

BGM, 33, 5'10", 160, hung top seeks BM, attractive, who knows where he's going in life. Possible relationship. Enjoy movies, video, bike riding. Edwardo. ♀ 3369. (38)

Robert, GBM, very attractive, to meet intelligent, responsible, very attractive hot top for relationship, romance, dating. ♀ 3363. (38)

Exhibitionists unite: amateur photographer looking for in shape, well endowed blacks and Latinos for models. Trade photos (artistic only) for your time. Shots à la Ritts, Weber. Show me what you have! Call Ted: 213-224-0243. (38)

If you're horny Latin or black and love to receive expert head tonight. Call Jim 818-344-1913. (36)

BM, 30, 5'11", 150#, into sports, bicycling, travel; looking for masculine top man, any race. Call Lonnell. ♀ 3106. (38)

If you're horny Latin or black and love to receive expert head tonight, call Jim 818-344-1913. (36)

Warren, 6'2", 190, 26 y.o., seeks masculine, tall, independent top. ♀ 3115 (38)

WM, 53, 5'9", 170, leather love, Jeff. ♀ 3101. (35)

Yo, this is J.D., BGM, 5'6", 135#, 40. I need a workout buddy that is taller and bigger, who is prepared for anything in and out of weightroom. I am into feet; size 12 or bigger is a +. ♀ 1052. (37)

Masculine GBM. Handsome, nice build, 31, 6', 190#. Independent, fun loving and affectionate. Seeking possible relationship.

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You: 5'9" or taller, nice build, independent and seeking same. Call Ryan. ♀ 1001. (37)

GWM, 30s, 5'9", 135#, wide-ranging interests, intellectual, musical, versatile and affectionate, seeks men (esp. of color) for friends who enjoy hot, prolonged intimate sessions. ♀ 3024. (37)

Attractive BGM, 28, 6', 182#, enjoys reading, tennis, and the wild thing. If you have a good ass, call me. Kevin. ♀ 3026. (37)

Latino, 31, 6', 185#, looking for GBM 35-45, small built, into raunch S/M, spit, W/S. Please call, sir. 818-284-0770. (35)

BGM interested in meeting other BGM or LGM for fun and friendship. Must be into safer sex. I am 6'1", 185#. I am a top sexually. Let me hear from you. ♀ 3031. (37)

GBM seeking other GBMs who know what they want in a big bottom. I'm 6'4", 208# and loaded for action. If you're a die-hard top man, don't hesitate to give me a call. I'll serve you right. ♀ 3066. (37)

I'm black male, 33. Looking for WM 33-40 for movie and dinner. ♀ 3038. (37)

Sexy, down to earth, attractive 30-year-old GBM bodybuilder seeks masculine, well-built brother that's not fem or on drugs. I am seeking a possible relationship or strong friendship. I enjoy bodybuilding, movies and traveling. ♀ 3028. (37)

BGM, 30, 5'11", 150#, into sports, bicycling, travelling, seeks one to one relationship with masculine topman, any race. ♀ 3106. (37)

GBM, 26, AIDS activist, writer, poet, loves independent films, art films, reading, art galleries and music. 5'6", 120#, nice swimmer's body. Loves intelligent conversation over quirky meals. ♀ 3030. (37)

Very goodlooking BGM, 27, 6'1", 175, 9½", seeks the perfect bottom for movies, dinner and fun. You should definitely know how to enjoy what I have to give. ♀ 3025. (37)

Looking for someone special to start a relationship with. Am sincere, loving, peaceful male 39, 5'8", slim, black. Enjoy concerts, movies, plays, candlelight dinners. Seek sexually versatile male any race (especially Latino) over 30. Alex. ♀ 3102. (37)

Attractive, black male, 41, 6'2", 195 lbs. Okay, that's the physical side. Also am professional, successful (so they tell me), intelligent, a good listener, and fun to be around. Enjoy music, working out (no, not bodybuilding, just working out), movies, eating in good restaurants, stimulating conversation, and long romantic nights. You are attractive, black male, with most of the above qualities (age is not a factor ... there are mature 26-year-olds, and there are also 35-year-old teenagers). If you are seriously looking for an interesting, stimulating and romantic companion, please write and send a photo with your phone number. The good times are waiting.

♂ 1027. ♀ 148. (36)

Venice Beach. Half-Japanese male seeks seriously sincere relationship-oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 310-399-2953. ♀ 3100. (34)

BM, 48, wants clean friends 40-50. Fun and love. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (36)

GWM seeks GBM. Me: goodlooking, 6'4", 205 lbs., big dick into AA recovery, gym. HIV+. You: tall, black guy with real big cock into finding a relationship/lover. Joe. ♀ 149. (37)

Leon Parker of Tujunga, CA: Write D.P. Box 84174 L.A., CA 90073. (36)

Baldwin Hills GWM seeking masculine sex buddies. 213-294-4739. (36)

Attractive GWM, 44, 6', 185, hairy-chested, moustached, professional, easy-going, sensual, healthy, versatile, oral-seeks very muscular (bodybuilder a plus), black male for regular mutually satisfying meetings. 213-433-9712 before 10 p.m. (36)

BM, 41, 5'10", 165, wants relationship. Call 818-891-2186. (36)

Attractive GBM, seeks tall, handsome GWM. 213-852-0219. (36)

This very attractive brown skin male, 30, 5'10", 150 lbs. seeks a brown skin overly attractive uncut HIV+ pretty boy. 21-27. Call Chris 213-487-3471. Read this ad twice before you call. (37)

BGM, HIV+, 31, kind, loving, warm personality, wheelchair bound, speech impaired, seeking a BGM, with similar qualities and seriously interested in me. Call Mark at 213-756-5975. Serious calls only! No call after 11 p.m. (36)

GBM, 30, 5'7", 170 lbs., smooth, aerobics, nice body, race unimportant, prefer straight acting. HIV-, good sense of humor, adventurous and mature period. Glendale, CA. Pictures answered first. ♀ 1036. ♀ 147. (35)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant muscular dominate man. 818-765-5132. (36)

Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+ sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (39)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

GWM, 30 years, quiet type, seeks GBM, 25 years. ♀ 3029. ♀ 157. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

BM, 25, 6'2", 200, masculine, top, seeks masculine GM. No feds/fats. Letter/photo

to Boxholder, Box 230020, Old State House Sta., Hartford, CT 06123-0020(35)

GWM, 24, attractive, professional, stable, seeks similar GBM for friendship. Box 79, Groton, CT 06340. (36)

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

Black bi male, 6'3½", 215#, attractive, masculine, seeks black young servicemen (ex-Marines, Army, Navy guys) and young men 25-35 for friendship; no fats, no feds. Box 29232, Washington, DC 20017. (36)

Black wrestler looking for others masculine guys into hot and sweaty wrestling action in swim trunks, jocks, etc. Long, man to man, erotic wrestling action and oil wrestling. Box 91428, Washington, DC 20090-1428, or call 202-291-0907. (38)

MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

Hot BM, 25-year-old, well-endowed, Tampa area. ♀ 3375. (38)

Mitch, black, 24, 5'10", 155, very attractive, muscular, masculine seeks others. ♀ 3359. (38)

GWM, 42, look early 30s, good looking, super nice guy, seeks black males 18-45 for friendship and goodtimes. Well worth the time it takes to write, so please do. Joe, Box 152943, Tampa, FL 33684. ♀ 1049. (36)

Blk/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

Blond/blue, handsome, endowed professional seeks young, affectionate Afro-American. Military/visitors welcome. Rick, 808-924-3761. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

BGM, 6'2", 200#, 29, discreet, masculine, very oral seeks masculine top, well-endowed bubble-butt BGM for erotic correspondence and friendship. Your picture gets mine...go for it homeboy. ♀ 164(36)

Maurice, 29, 6'2", 200, seeks other masculine top BM to kick it with and correspond. ♀ 3311. (38)

Masculine Bi/M, 30, 6'0", 175#, bottom/versatile, hung, seeks hot, top/versatile black men for solo or group action. Nationwide penpals, travelers welcome. Chicago area. ♀ 165. (36)

WM, 37, 5'11", 178, Bill, sports, weights, nice looking, solidly built, seek 37-55, very masculine, loving, 200+, down to earth, non-promiscuous. ♀ 3340. (38)

GWM seeks GBM over 6'. Slender, modern looking, stable, fun. Ph. 312-525-1267. (37)

GWM, 26, 5'8", 160#, HIV+, muscular versatile hot bod, seeks same or top GBM or GHM muscular types only, for hot safe sex play, flexing, scenes, laughs, etc. ♀ 3323. ♀ 163. (38)

Black masculine male bottom, 50, 5'7", 170#, 34" waist, seeks white or Asian top. Must be masculine and well hung. Tail and/or into active/passive butt-licking. Write: Bob, Box 708744, Chicago, IL 60640. (37)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., attractive, athletic, tight body, masculine, versatile seeks GBM for safe fun and more. 312-327-4895. (36)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29 years old, 8½" and thick. Seeks black or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/out fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

GBM, 36, Christian, desires GWM friendship. CEP, 425 Connecticut St. #302, Gary, IN 46402. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter and photo to: Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, LA 70175. All replies answered.(E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

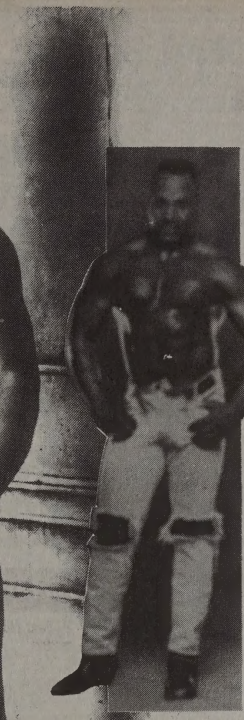
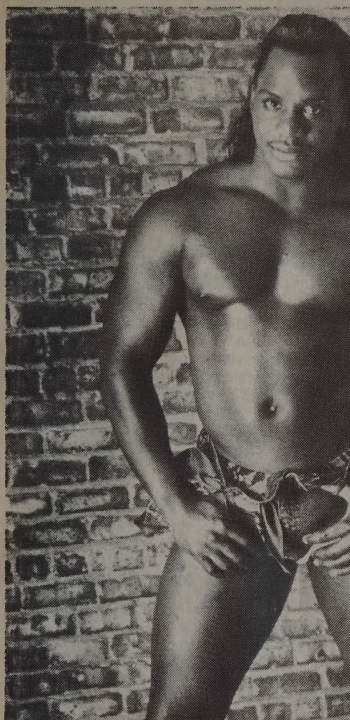
Gay light-skinned male, 37, 5'5", 155#, brn eyes, black curly hair, no drugs, don't drink, just smoke cigarettes. Enjoy Gr/Pr both ways, fun to be with, good health. Looking for GWM lover, neat and clean chubby guy. Write with photo. Bill C., 605 Maple St., Franklin, MA 02038. (36)

Upwardly mobile GBM seeks nubile Nubian for loving, man to man relationship. Dancers and football players welcome. Please wear spandex to tryouts. Paul: 617-427-5922, late nites or messages(35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Down-to-earth, 51-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM who is interested in a meaningful relationship. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim or muscular build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo to ♀ 154 or call 301-779-6738 (evenings/weekends). (36)

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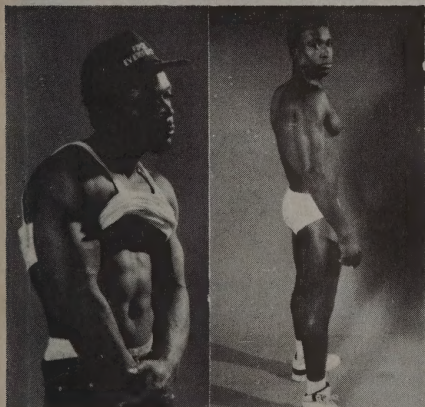
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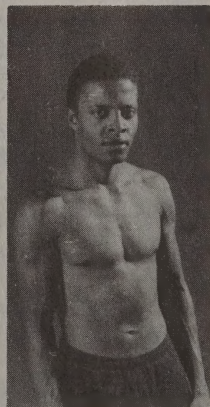


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right person for the right thing. Johnny 7, Box 56, Temple Hills, MD 20757. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

Andre, GBM, 5'11", 170, 23, slender, nice build, would like to meet other black or Latino men 23-30, you must be educated and knowledgeable. ♠ 3320. (38)

I love to talk on the phone, would like to meet someone special. James. ♠ 3097. (38)

Muscular, hot, GBM, 6'1", 200#, 22 yrs, hazel eyes, light brown skin, 32" waist, very good looking, lots of fun and in great shape, versatile with many interests, looking for fun, friendship, correspondence, and possibly a relationship with other sincere, attractive, well built, intelligent, good natured, sexy BM or Latin guys all over. Guys who are hairy, muscular and/or taller than 6' are a definite plus but not necessary. No feds/fems. Write me and let's see what we come up with. Robert Scott II, 9223 Prest, Detroit, MI 48228-2207. (36)

Yo baby yo baby yo. Puerto Rican black male top wants black Puerto Rican/Latino/Arab/Mexican men, bottoms. Fun, friendship, homeboy love. Later man. Let's get busy. Yehi Jeff. ♠ 1013. ♠ 155. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Marion Saint-Truss, Unit 28, #68702, Parchman, MS 38738. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MO

GBM, 20, passive, wants blk gentlemen from 22-40 for pen friends. Will travel for right person. Must be very masculine/bi, top, and serious. Phone and phone. All responses answered. LaMark: 816-924-1923. (36)

GWM, 27, 6'1", 175, blond/brown, moustache, versatile bottom, St. Louis area, seeks exciting goodlooking black guys. ♠ 3342. (38)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NE

GWM searching GBM. Vers. bodybuilder. 190+ and 6'0"+. Boxholder, 2211 Jones #3F, Omaha, NE 68102-3017. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

GBM, 25, 165 lbs., straight-acting, good build, intelligent college senior, seeks straight-acting white or Latin men 20-30 for friendship. Moving to L.A. 8/92. Reply R.W., Box 72573, Las Vegas, NV 89170-2573. (36)

GBM, 33, 6'3" hairy seeks GWM, 35+, hairy enjoys titwork, leather scenes, etc.

Write with photo to T.C., 503 Mill St #16, Reno, NV 89502. (36)

Together black man, "In the Life" sought by GWM 37, 5'11", 210, affectionate, loyal, healthy, non-drinker, tobacco use, professional, sense of humor, happy, intelligent, and reasonably good looking. You: GBM 30s/40s with similar qualities. I am more interested in what's between your ears than between your legs. I am looking for the following in a potential friend/life-mate: willing to risk love, no hard drugs/booze, clean, open-minded, honest, non-angry, emotionally stable, demonstrative, real, educated, employed/employable with mostly similar interests: science, technology, art, real estate, reading (sci-fi to Joseph Beam) music (Motown to disco), movies, dogs, home life, old cars, dinners out, cooking, socializing, not a barfly or size-queen, in search of a long-term relationship (my last was with GBM, 10 years), romance, travel (S.F., etc.), massage, general safe sex. You should, if we click, be willing and able to live in this occasionally bigoted and culturally isolated city of Reno, Nevada. Please no hustlers, con, user, bisexuals, confused, mental cases, attitude, one night stands, violence, or emotional instability or those without the willingness or ability to contribute 50/50 in building a relationship, these need not fill my P.O. Box. Your phone # or letter will get my reply. Bill A., Box 9201, Reno, NV 89507-9998. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

GWM, 34, 5'8", 160, HIV+, healthy, masculine and attractive. Seeks a masculine brother 18+ to chill with, live with and love. I was raised in a mixed family and have always been attracted to black men. I'm professional, caring, sensitive and stable. Photo guarantees response. ♠ 169. (37)

Latin male, professional, clean, masculine, mid-40s, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occu-pant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

White male, middle age, enjoys the company of black males for quiet times, dinner and movies, New York City area. Respond to John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (36)

Monty, BM, 32, 5'10", 190, muscular build, military, new to New England area, seeks WM 25-45. ♠ 3004. (38)

Tall, goodlooking, wants to date a black guy. Michael. ♠ 3099. (38)

Attractive, cute GBM, 23, look younger, light brown complexion, 5'10", 130, bottom. Seeks solid, dominant B-Boys who know what they want in the N.Y., N.J. areas. ♠ 171. (36)

Cultured, educated black gent, 67, retired prof., white haired, very short/stocky (5'3",

155#), quiet, docile, recessive (F/A only): seeks mature, intelligent, black/Latino/American Indian/etc. men who are rustic, outdoor types, macho, dominant, aggressive (F/P), discreet, as friends and weekend guests. No drugs, S/M, or money involved. Call Dave R. only between 9 p.m. and midnight: 212-681-0179 (no phone sex), or write 930 Grand Concourse #6B, Bronx, NY 10451. Sorry, no inmates. (37)

Attractive PR, 41, 140#, 5'11", interested in meeting blacks (African, American, West Indian including Rastas) and fair to dark skinned PRs, Dominicans, Arabs and Brasilians for fun and friendship. Must be top, hung 8+, clean, straight looking/acting, discreet, able to keep an erection with condom on. Age/height unimportant. No bottoms, feds, collect or j/o calls, solicitors or hustlers. NYC residents or visitors to this area only. Call Lou, 718-271-0932, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. or leave mess. (36)

Puerto Rican, 51, 5'7", 180#, brown skin, hot, horny, submissive. Looking for top black men, with huge cocks, to please them. Write to: Emilio Cruz, Box 1574, Bronx, NY 10451-1574. (35)

You down with O.P.P.? BiBM, 24, 6', 160#, seeks funky-fresh B-boys 18-25 to chill with. Write Box 20983, NYC, 10129-0009. Peace. (35)

Muscular, hard runner's build, versatile, HIV-, hot, hung, smooth, upbeat, professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoys outdoors, fitness, arts, work, romance, humor, travel seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited, GBM, 30-48, any location. Share best of country and city. Fun/friendship, maybe relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (36)

Attractive white male, 33, 6'3", 175 lbs, professional, seeks black guy, independent, good-looking, creative and a real communicator, available for friendship and dating. ♠ 3099. ♠ 150. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Black male, 40, 6', 175#, muscular, athletic, healthy and inexperienced. Seeks masculine top stud for mutually satisfying meetings, possible relationship. Box 94189, Cleveland, OH 44114. (36)

GBM, 28, 5'10", 160, HIV+, masculine, attractive. Looking to meet other masculine black or Spanish men who are HIV+ for friendship, romance and hot sex. Respond with letter and photo. ♠ 170. (36)

BM, 27, Scott, seeks Latins, PR, Arabs, BM in Cleveland area. ♠ 3308. (38)

Attractive BM, 25, seeks gay lover. De-Wayne Guynes #179-432, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Educated BGM seeking same. J.W.D..

1629 Riverside Dr. #29, Tulsa, OK 74119. (37)

Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—PA

BM, 32, 5'9", 170, light brown, seeks black men ages 25-35, non-smoker, must be a man, no feds, no drugs, no games. Be romantic, caring, honest and real. No feds, no sugar daddys—just straight up about us. ♠ 3365. ♠ 172. (38)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SD

GWM, 41, HIV-, seeks black men of all ages for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TN

Healthy GBM Christian wanted as penpal friend and maybe more. Older men OK. ♠ 159. (36)

GWM, 47, looking for hung topman for playmate. Race unimportant. Honesty is. Carl Cannady, 414A E. Old Hickory Blvd., Madison, TN 37115. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

GWM, blonde, blue, bottom, 5'10", 188 lbs., 38, looks younger. Seeking any race slim top-man; bi ok. Write with photo to Boxholder, Box 90008, San Antonio, TX 78209-9008. (41)

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship, love and more. Call or write Dennis Seay, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GBM, 31, 5'10", 165#, goodlooking, very masculine, professional, traveled. Fit/homboy-ish, well endowed, part Latin, seeks blk, straight appearing, hotlooking, young macho hispanic, ethnic or BM. Relationship or friend. Find love, get nasty, romp or hang. Photo for reply. Box 78151, Seattle, WA 98178. (37)

HIV+ and black? 46 y/o bearded man would like to hear from you. Avid reader and gardner, HIV+, quiet, considerate. Appreciate solid values, good mind, generous heart, and sense of humor. You? Any geographic area. Respond: 1202 E. Pike St. #738, Seattle, WA 98122. (37)



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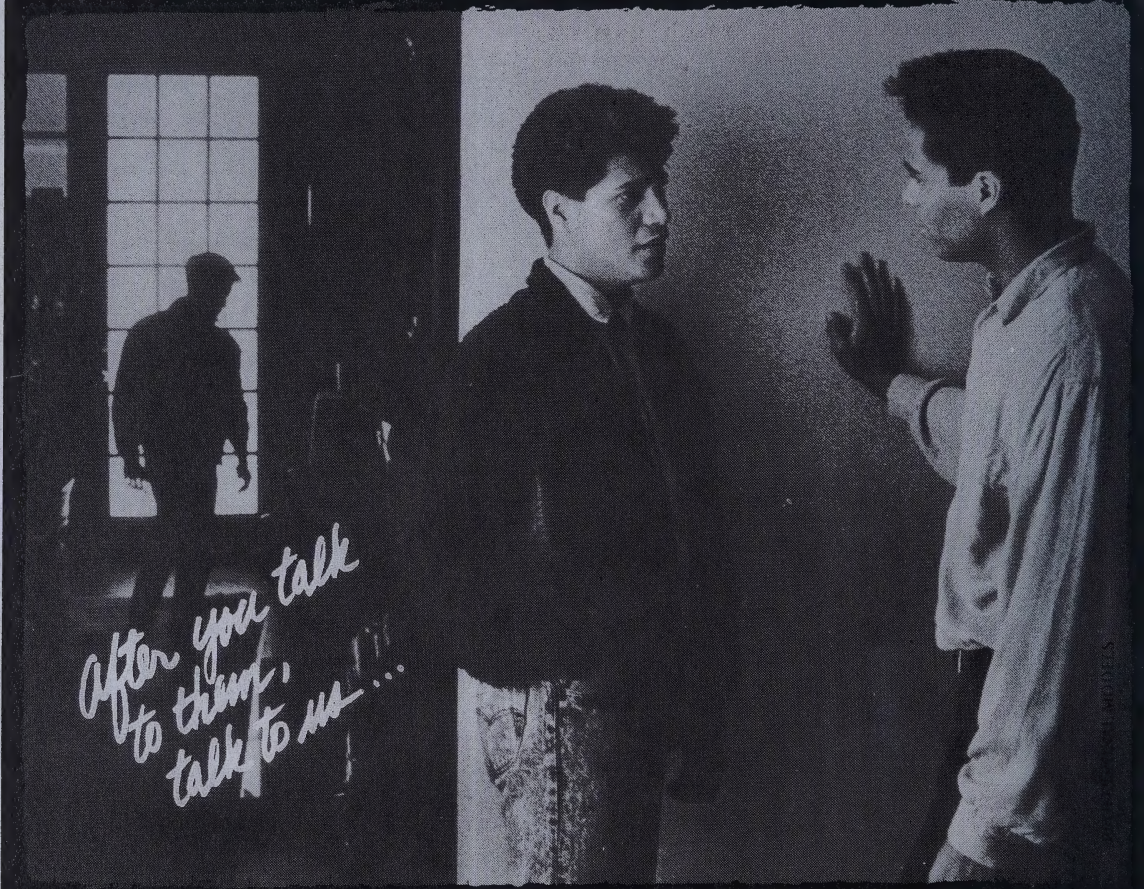


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WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SEX IN THE BACK SEAT?

A police officer arrested a man for disorderly conduct outside Loretta's, a popular black gay bar in Atlanta.

In routine fashion, she put her prisoner in the rear of her patrol car beside another suspect already in custody. After the officer finished writing her report, she peered inside, and caught the two prisoners having sex.

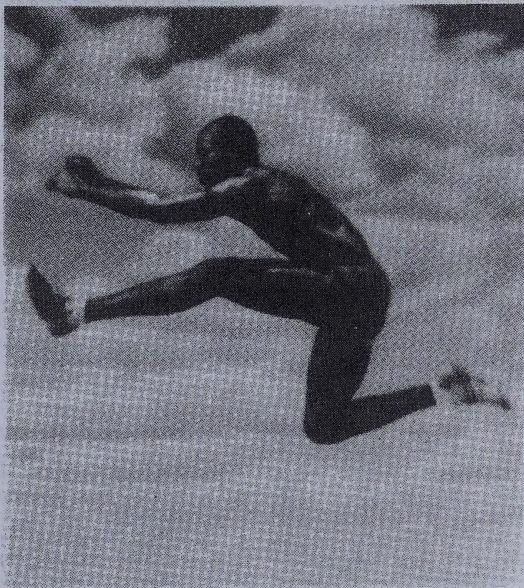
She promptly charged both men with sodomy.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FLORIDA-STYLE

While the nation has recovered from the arrest of Paul Reubens (né Pee Wee Herman) in SARASOTA, other entrapment-style practices across the Sunshine State are still raising eyebrows.

WEST PALM BEACH police, suffering a shortage of black narcotics officers, decided to wear blackface in order to make drug sales. But the scheme failed when no customers bought what the cops were selling.

BROWARD COUNTY Sheriff Nick Navarro is proud to take the cake for homophobia having acquired a hard-headed reputation for relentlessly raiding gay establishments. At least two lawsuits have been filed and 36 accounts of police brutality have been documented. Even the local chapter of the NAACP has complained about the overuse of police dogs on minorities.



Apple



IBM

But the ethics in government award goes to BROWARD COUNTY sheriff's deputy Jeff Willets and wife, Kathy, busted for prostitution, whose little black book might prove more scandalous and name more names than Kitty Kelly. The appropriately titled "vice" mayor of Ft. Lauderdale, Doug Danziger, who campaigned to shut down "adult" businesses, resigned amid speculation that he was among those named in the book.

IBM AND APPLE GO BLACK

There are dog people and cat people. Benz people and Beamer people. But some of the most fierce oneupmanship is between IBM people and Apple people.

But the arch rivals, who recently announced a joint venture, have come to agree on something else as well.

In the Nov. 11, 1991 issue of *PC Week*, an ad touting Apple products uses a photograph showing a black athlete in mid-air, muscles agleaming.

A few pages later, an IBM ad also uses a photograph of a black athlete—this one from an angle few people ever get to enjoy in their lifetime. It is topped by the headline, "Why be content to run when you can fly?"

There was a time when Madison Avenue sold products by having smiling white women in bathing suits with their heads tilted slightly to the side lightly touch the products. But I like the new black homoeroticism much better.

BLK MAIL

WHO SCREWED (UP) JOE SIMMONS?

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading the letters to the editor ["BLK Mail," August, 1991]. One that touched me most was the one written by a brother who had noticed that throughout the filming career of Joe Simmons only once had he been seen getting fucked in the ass by a black man. I've seen him clearly being fucked by white men. Sad but Joe is typical of many thousands of African American males and there is no screen to point out this behavior of the many. We who are black oriented always held the belief that many black bi and gay men put and maintain limitations on what they do sexually with other black men but have no limitations with white men. By the

way, there is a super hung brother who appears in a film called *Darkmen* and *Hammer*. He appears in the same films with blacks but only once in the same cast. I became very upset when once he and another brother were cast together but they never touched each other. Both were working on this one white boy making sure in changing positions that they made no contact. Sorry! All the cotton fields, antebellum homes, Sambo and Mr. Charlie came into view. I really would like others to comment on why so many black men are in this frame of mind. Also, very important is how many so called black heterosexual males are but closets in the imagines of Joe Simmons and whether or not the A-I-D-S is in the straight black community are not straight after all. I'm afraid we

might have a Joe Simmons crisis whereas these men are having their anuses enlarged with white dicks and returning to the black woman. Now the same men no doubt become very anti black faggot and become very upset if cruised by one.

Bob Stocks
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Editor:

First and foremost whomever your appointee is does not need their head examined, but the person that wrote that incredibly idiotic letter does. When I read that letter in the August 1991 issue of BLK all I could think was how could they let a letter of that magnitude of stupidity get published. Let me just say that I enjoy your magazine thoroughly and I along with I'm sure many other share this opinion. If the person who wrote that letter had took time out to review their record or even question their interest in the betterment of their education they wouldn't have not written that letter.

Instead of learning the facts they were so quick to call someone an Uncle Tom. To set the record straight, Joe Simmons has bent over for a brother as they put it in his porno films. The title of the film is called *Black Magic*. I am not trying to justify this one occasion as an excuse for Mr. Simmons for not doing it more than once. I am merely responding to the incorrect statement that was made. I quote, "In the 30 plus films I've seen Mr. Simmons in, not once, once mind you has this thing bent over for a brother—a

white boy, yes several—but not a black man."

In closing, I'd like to say that I really enjoy the entertainment in your magazine. I really wouldn't worry about losing this person as a reader because to be frank you really don't need people that idiotic reading your magazine who obviously are too dumb to comprehend it anyway. In the name of black minds and beauty I also bid you peace, love, good luck and high hopes. I also apologize for the stupidity of my fellow brother and as a former New Yorker I hope this has no bearing on us and we should pray for high hopes that their act comes together soon.

Kiburi Lacy
San Francisco, Calif.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES THOMAS

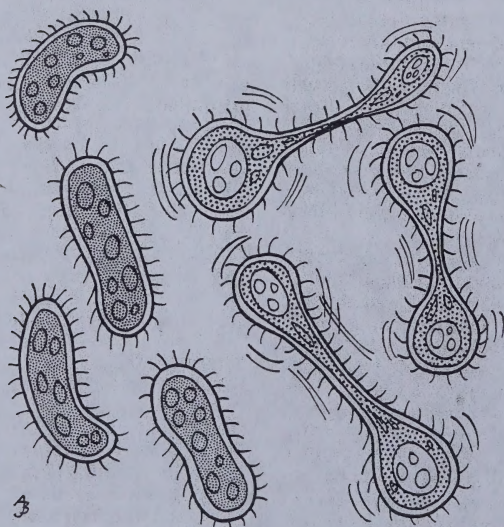
Dear Editor:

I recently read a letter by a James L. Thomas ["BLK Mail," August, 1991] who called the "gay lifestyle" an appalling abomination.

I wonder if this person has ever looked into personal ads, swinger magazines, taken a good look at today's society and I'd like him to know there are millions, upon millions of gay and bisexual people in the USA. I'd like to know what his problem seems to be? If he's so homophobic, why bother to read and write a letter of protest to BLK magazine?

It's 1992 Mr. Thomas let's wake up please, we are in the age of gay and human rights!

Eugene Clarrington
Brooklyn, N.Y.



Black gay publications evolve.

Dear Editor:

James L. Thomas writes, "For a country built on the slogan, 'In God We Trust,' I sometimes wonder what we are coming to."

First, he seems unaware that the slogan, which ironically was the same as that found on Nazi soldiers' belt buckles, was legislated onto our currency during the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower. The Founding Fathers were deists, not theists.

Second, he admits that "homosexuality is an abomination to God," which points the finger to the root of homophobia: organized Christian religion.

Warren A. Smith
New York, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

This is an immediate response to Minority Business Association President James L. Thomas of Inglewood, Calif., who had the gall to write an ignorant letter to you opposing the issue of AB 101. I hope he reads this.

Well, Mr. Thomas, who the hell do you think you are? Has the Queen of Paradise Island died and left you her throne? Is it your time of the month? Inquiring black gay and lesbian minds would like to know. It's a crying shame that Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed a significant stepping stone that would have allowed my California gay and lesbian peers the opportunity to rest a little easier. They'll remember his fucked up stance come the next election. Keep in your non-lubricated mind that anyone who seeks an office will seek the gay and lesbian vote. And now you're up to date, honey.

Furthermore, you're just pouting as if you've stained

your panties that [legislators] Diane Watson and Curtis Tucker supported AB 101. Take your wannabe fundamentalist ass back to your place of worship and learn some sensitivity. (Oh, I forgot, *real* men like you [sike] aren't supposed to be sensitive.) Wake up and sniff your panties because you are not the "T"!

A gay teenager is contemplating suicide this very moment and you have the nerve to criticize. I'm young, (21 years old), black and gay. I love black men, and you'll never have the power to take my love for black men away, suck! I was a lonely gay teenager contemplating suicide, trying to deal with my emotionally and verbally abusive mother, but I survived. I held on to my dreams, I made it to manhood, despite the closeted homophobia and heterosexism.

I'm thankful for many things, like the fact that here in Chicago, gay and lesbian taxpayers are protected under the law, it's called the Human Rights Ordinance, for your information, sweetheart. You probably don't know your dick from an inchworm and then you have the nerve to spread your stupid ignorance. If you ever come to Chicago trying to publicly denounce gay and lesbian citizens, I'll fuck you up on the spot. You're absolutely hopeless in understanding the love my black gay brothers have for each other. Some people *never* come out! (Hint, hint). Maybe you've been sipping too many strawberry daiquiris with Jawanza Kunjufu. I guess you've been gossiping with Haki Madhubuti too. If you're looking for a cat fight, you've found one here, your internalized homophobia is played out, my brother. You can take

your 8-track tape philosophy and shove it where you know you want to be penetrated.

Antonio Sharp
Chicago, Ill.

'HIGH RISK, LOW PRIORITY' DISSED AND APPLAUDED

Dear Editor:

In response to Michael Broder's article in the July 1991 issue of BLK, I am totally "through"; this article should be entitled "Michael Broder Turns a Totally Blind Eye to The Black Men's Xchange." BMX has provided the only effective culturally sensitive AIDS education and prevention program in the East Bay (which is part of the Bay area by the way) targeting black men who love men, and has been doing so for the past two years, reaching over 400 African-American (black) men. Because of BMX black men are now on AIDS Advisory Boards, involved with community planning councils etc., I think that credit needs to be given where credit is due. I understand that organizations have agendas that they are attempting to broaden, but in the African-American community, the BMX agenda remains the same and is consistent. We promote African-American (black) education and empowerment.

As the National Coordinator for the Black Men's Xchange, I am offended; the work that our organization has been doing in Oakland and around the country was totally ignored. We have already done what other organization are attempting to do or dream of doing, with little or no monies, and we are successful because of the love and commitment that we have for our people. Other

organizations are failing because they are not committed to, or understanding of, the needs of the black community. This love originates in the heart, and is directed at the black community, not the funding source.

Joe Hawkins
National Coordinator
BMX
Oakland, Calif.

The editor replies: BLK apologizes to BMX and all the other organizations whose AIDS-related work in the black gay community was not mentioned in Michael Broder's article.

A more complete list of AIDS organizations doing work in the black community appears in the BLK List published in these pages periodically.

Dear Editor:

Two years ago while attending the NBGLLF in Atlanta I expressed my concerns about the lack of critical articles and coverage of black feminist issues in BLK.

I just finished reading the July '91 issue and was most pleased by the progress your staff has made in providing a more even-handed coverage of our communities. I especially appreciated reading the critical and informative article "High Risk, Low Priority" by Michael Broder. KUDOS to you and your staff.

Skye Ward
Berkeley, Calif.

FIVE-POINTS ON JEFFREY DAHMER

Dear Editor:

Mark Haile's story about the Dahmer incident in Milwaukee, while generally OK, has some serious flaws. As a person who has been

involved in the core of this unfolding story, and the Director of the Hate/ Crimes reporting, I would like to correct some points.

a) in my opinion it is an error to call Dahmer a "gay" man. He is homosexual and very confused, but to call him "gay" suggests that he accepts his sexuality ...it is clear that he didn't.

b) it is totally incorrect to state that Milwaukee is a city not known for its tolerance. Do we forget history so quickly? Wisconsin was the first state to include sexual orientation in its non discrimination policies 9 years ago. Milwaukee passed its own version as well. The religious community here helped make that happen. I will not say that there are not problems with racism and homophobia, but the leadership of this community is very open.

c) the phrase "homosexual overkill" was indeed used, however, after the Dahmer story broke, within less than 48 hours the media were NOT using the term because several of us in the leadership of the community confronted it and it was stopped, cold!

d) Milwaukee has one of the best informed media in America. All major media here have undergone "sensitivity training" sessions many years ago. The media has NOT "played up the murders as a logical extension of homosexual behavior," as you suggest. Rather, one talk show host, Mark Belling, who caters to the lunatic fringe right wing made that statement. No one else in the media here supported it. Quite to the contrary, the coverage and sensitivity by the media to gays and lesbians was exemplary!

e) And, while there certainly is homophobia and racism in the Milwaukee Police Department, it is

vital to know that all cadets of the past 5+ years have been exposed to some gay/lesbian sensitivity training. On top of that, the Command Staff, lead by Chief Phillip Arreola, had already been reaching out to the gay/lesbian community to implement cultural awareness training to all line officers and command staff before Dahmer.

*Ralph F. Navarro
Milwaukee, Wis.*

The editor replies: Ralph Navarro's hometown pride is commendable if somewhat overwrought, and his need to defend media which partially responded to the local lesbian and gay community's consciousness-raising is understandable. But Milwaukee's press set the initial tone for nationwide media coverage and subsequent damage control was inadequate. a) We agree that Dahmer doesn't accept his homosexuality. b) Milwaukee's record on gay issues does not, to us, obviate its mediocre record on racial issues. c) You cannot put the genie of media homophobia back in the bottle. d) and e) Glad to hear it.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

BLK

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 4, No. 1, Whole No. 35

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ON THE COVER: Steven Corbin. Photo by Bruce Hunt.

BLK PEOPLE

SAN FRANCISCO Rev. Jesse Jackson urged the lesbian and gay community to remain calm in response to the veto of California's AB101 anti-discrimination law. He spoke to several thousand at a Castro St. rally.

HOUSTON Martha Wash struck it up at Heaven Oct. 5.

NEW YORK Tito Antonio Davis appeared in concert at Outmusic Coffeehouse Dec. 15.

ATLANTA Darryl Walker was profiled in the Aug. 29 issue of Southern Voice.

LOS ANGELES Rev. George A. Stallings celebrated the inaugural mass for his new Imani Temple/Los Angeles Nov. 10.

CHICAGO Pangea and Clubhouse co-owners Robert Yeaworth and Sam Davis were named "Owners of the Year" by the Mr. Windy City competition.

PHOENIX Mr. Q stripped down to a G at GB's Rendezvous—and will probably do it again.

SARATOGA, Calif. Black Men's Xchange co-founder Cleo Manago led a "Confronting Racism" workshop at the 14th annual California Men's Conference. He also appeared with Dr. Hawkins Mitchell in Friday night's opening ceremonies.

WASHINGTON Stephen Bridges, 28, a volunteer with the Inner City AIDS Network who plays classical violin in his spare time, was profiled in the *Washington Blade* recently.

DALLAS Chris Dickerson, former Mr. America, Mr.

Universe and Mr. Olympia, was a guest poser and judge at the "Night of Pride" Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships in September. Dickerson has also made guest appearances at the Arcadia Championships in San Francisco and the Gay Games in Vancouver.

LOS ANGELES Marlon T. Riggs was presented with a "Distinguished Documentary Award" by the International Documentary Association Nov. 1. He was honored for *Color Adjustment*.

NEW YORK *Spin Cycle* by Aaron Burch, *Chasing the Moon* by Dawn Suggs and *Diotima* by Jack Waters were featured at the Fifth New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival in September.

AMHERST, Mass. Nuru-dafina Pili Abena performed at the second annual Northampton/Amherst Lesbian Festival recently.

CHICAGO Sydney Johnson was crowned Mr. Rainbow Revue in September.

HOUSTON World heavyweight champ George Foreman donated \$100,000 to the AIDS Foundation of Houston in September.

WASHINGTON Cindy Smith was elected president of the Black Lesbian Support Group at a meeting held Sept. 14.

NEW YORK Michael Cummings, whose African-inspired quilts fetch up to \$10,000 apiece—was profiled in the *New York Times*.

TACOMA Sgt. Perry Watkins was featured on BET's *Our Voices* in September.

SAN FRANCISCO Dr. Hawkins Mitchell completed a three-part series about his

Dream Lodge, a self-improvement workshop.

NEW YORK Connie Lofton appeared at Outmusic Coffeehouse Nov. 17.

PHILADELPHIA Rebecca Helem and Jon Ross were elected to the 15-member board of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride of Delaware Valley.

DALLAS Cody West took first place in the light heavyweight division at the North American Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships Sept. 20.

NEW YORK Sandra J. Lowe, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has been named director of the Governor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

CHICAGO First-time author Kikki Baker was profiled in the Advocate. Her *In the Game* has just been

released by Naiad Press.

LONDON Whitney Houston made a surprise appearance at an AIDS march organized by the Brent HIV Centre.

LOS ANGELES Mary-Linn Hughes and Reginald Zachary have completed a mural on the west wall of the Minority AIDS Project. The project was commissioned by the Social and Public Art Resource Center.

SAN DIEGO Openly gay Stan Lewis has been appointed council representative by newly elected City Councilmember Valerie Stallings.

NEW YORK Gary Paul Wright appears at Outmusic Coffeehouse in January.

SANTA MONICA, Calif. E. Lloyd Napier and the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble staged *A Song for My Brother*.



"In the sixties it was the Chicago 7, in the seventies it was the Jackson 5, in the eighties it was the Frustaci 7, and in the ninties it's Nonoxynol 9."

ers last month.

HOUSTON Michelle Parkerson screened several of her documentaries at the Museum of Fine Arts in November.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Marjorie Hill spoke at Jewel's Catch One recently in an event organized by the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

NEW YORK Gerideau displayed his female illusions at Sweetwater's in November.

DALLAS Jerome Palmer won the Ms. Butch Desert Moon contest in September.

ATLANTA Mayor Maynard Jackson withdrew an Honorary Citizenship award after he found out the woman to receive it had been a man before a 1974 sex change operation.

CHICAGO Essex Hemphill appeared with Alison Bechdel celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Gerber/Hart Library Oct. 25.

LOS ANGELES Vaginal Creme Davis performed at A Different Light Bookstore in December.

WASHINGTON Melvin Dixon, Essex Hemphill, Assotto Saint, Joseph Corman, Larry Ferguson, Steve Langley and Harry Lewis were among those honored at a reception sponsored by the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Black and White Men Together/DC and the Encore Social Club.

NEW YORK Pepper La Beija hosted "A Night of Fabulous Fakes" at the Apollo Theater on Nov. 2.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. Lyle Ashton Harris was one of the participants in "Disputed Identities" a survey of photographs mounted at the California Museum of Photography.

LOS ANGELES Rev. Victoria Lee-Owens facilitated a workshop, "Healing Your Inner Child," in September.

WASHINGTON Dr. Ron Simmons was the guest of Leonard Green on Ch. 32's *Talk TV* Nov. 1.

PORTLAND, Ore. Clodie Wright, 60, was profiled in the Oct. issue of *Just Out*.

NEW YORK Cheryl Clarke and Donald Woods helped launch the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library with a evening of readings Oct. 23.

OAKLAND Corey Davis, a 22-year-old novice teacher was profiled in *San Francisco Examiner*.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan was honored by the *Los Angeles Sentinel* as one of the newspaper's "Community Service Honorees."

WASHINGTON Mandy Carter was recently named to the board of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

SAN FRANCISCO Marilyn, who finds "the curve of her waist" her favorite part of a woman's body, appeared unclothed in the Nov.-Dec. issue of *On Our Backs*.

SEATTLE Gwen Hall was named to the Interim Coordinating Committee of the National March on Washington.

WASHINGTON Rev. Kenneth I. Clarke, Sr., Penn State's assistant director of religious affairs, urges black churches to drop moral judgements about PWAs and become more involved in prevention. "Black churches can learn from the gay community's response in this area," he said.

LOS ANGELES Monica Palacios takes her show, *Latin Lezbo Comic* to the Celebration Theatre through Jan. 5.

MIAMI John Minnis, winner of \$100,000 in the Star

Search '91 "Best Male Vocalist" competition, performed at Uncle Charlie's Oct. 11.

NEW YORK DiAna DiAna and Dr. Bambi Sumpter were the subject of a video shown at the Center in November.

SAN FRANCISCO Wayne Corbitt performed in *Blackbirds Boogie* at Josie's in October and at the New Lagton Arts in November.

NEW YORK Alice Walker read from her new book of poems, *Her Blue Body Everything We Know*, at the 92nd St. Y's Poetry Center Oct. 7.

LOS ANGELES Bobby Smith, office manager for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's Clinic, was profiled in the Sept./Oct. *AHF Caregiver*.

CHICAGO Sgt. Perry Watkins, who recently won his battle with the U.S. Army after being dismissed because he was gay, spoke at the Rodde Center Oct. 13.

SACRAMENTO Christine Adams-Tripp, Phill Wilson and Wendell Carmichael were named to serve on a HIV Anti-Discrimination Task Force formed by California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi.

SAN FRANCISCO Gregory Adams, an AIDS educator, fundraiser and erotic movie star, was honored by the Shanti Project at a dinner and ceremony Oct. 3.

LOS ANGELES Jennifer Holliday performed Dec. 7 at Probe's Anniversary Party.

WASHINGTON After a three-year search, Rev. David G. Morrow has been picked to succeed Dr. James Tinney as head of Faith Temple.

LOS ANGELES Larry Pickens, lover of L.A. School Boardmember Jeff Horton, had his own public coming out in a well-done interview

in the *Los Angeles Times*.

OAKLAND Dr. Germán Maisonet spoke at Providence Hospital Oct. 25 on "African-American Men Living in the Age of AIDS." His talk was sponsored by the African-American AIDS, Support-Services and Survival Institute.

NEW YORK Choreographer David Rousseau was profiled both in the *Washington Blade* and in the *Advocate* recently.

PHILADELPHIA Horace Godwin co-facilitated a retreat, "Personal Power for the Gay '90s: A Weekend Retreat in the Poconos" Sept. 27-29.

WASHINGTON Venus Thrash and Stuart Adams discussed images of black lesbians and gay men in the straight black press with Barry Murray, editor of the *Capitol Spotlight* and Deborah Tang, director of news and public affairs for BET at a panel discussion Sept. 9. The meeting was hosted by the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, GLAAD/DC and moderated by Sabrina Sojourner.

SAN DIEGO Terri Mason was featured in a concert of his own works at First Unitarian Church Nov. 16. Also on the program were Preston Rawlings, Regina Anderson, Deborah McClelland and Marietta Clewis.

LOS ANGELES Carlton Wilborn performed in Alan Bowne's *Beirut* in September.

PORTLAND La Tricia Ransom and Milo were featured in a coming out article in the October issue of *Just Out*.

LOS ANGELES Comedienne Karen Williams was the Friday night M.C. at the second annual Women's Fun Festival Sept. 20-22. She was also profiled in the *Advocate* recently.

BLK

Newsmagazine for the black lesbian and gay community

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Gay Men's Health Crisis produces educational brochures, videos, posters and buttons. For a free Catalog of AIDS Educational Resources, call the HOTLINE: 212/807-6655 or write to Marketing, GMHC, 129 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011

Michelle Tellison had endured enough. Cerebral Palsy had left her in need of a wheelchair for most of her life. In 1980, Tellison began using MetroLift, a special program of Houston's Metro Transit System for handicapped or disabled people providing curb-to-curb service.

In 1985, Tellison began to have problems with drivers for the transit system—nationally considered one of the worst in the country in terms of service—

another company, Eagle Paratransit.

Tellison said the judge got "a real earful," as Frye described Tellison's experiences.

"Specifically, Michelle is being preached religion, and church, and interpretation of sin, and the Bible, by employees of a tax-supported agency. That tax-supported agency, supported by one percent of your eight-percent sales tax, is Metro. She is being told what she can and cannot read. She is being asked

Black Lesbian Seeks \$10 Million in Damages from City Transit System

after publishing an article that called for the formation of a support group for disabled lesbians and gay men.

Tellison had difficulties with drivers taking her to, or picking her up from Houston women's bars. The drivers would openly make comments about lesbians and sex, threatening to curtail service for her because of ticketing irregularities, and one time driving off and leaving her stranded after she had fallen out of her wheelchair.

This abuse led to Houston attorney Phyllis Frye filing suit against the Metro Transit System for \$10,000 in Harris County State District Court. Twenty-nine incidents were described in the lawsuit.

After the third court room hearing, Frye refiled the discrimination suit, asking for damages of \$10,000,000, after the harassment continued despite an order from the judge prohibiting it. Frye, a long-time champion for lesbian and gay legal issues, refused to be daunted after transit officials were unable to provide positive identification in naming the drivers, delaying the trial. Part of the difficulty as well was proving to the judge that the harassment was legally definable

questions or subjected to comments about sex, sexuality, sexual partners and desires to have sex. All of this goes on while she is a captive passenger on the MetroLift vans."

After Tellison discovered her name on a list of clients of MetroLift to be singled out for harassment, Frye went back into court to obtain photos of the drivers involved, who routinely covered up their name badges to prevent being identified.

The injunction prohibited Metro—and all its contractors—from subjecting her to obscene or rude remarks in conversation; from restricting her choice of reading material; from harassing her in regard to the lawsuit; handling her wheelchair in anything other than a normal manner; from obscuring their identification; and required that they follow company policy in providing service and collecting fares, regardless of where she

chooses to go, or her lifestyle.

"She ought to be treated like anyone else," said Judge David West of the 269th District Court.

Tellison works for a United Way agency. Metro



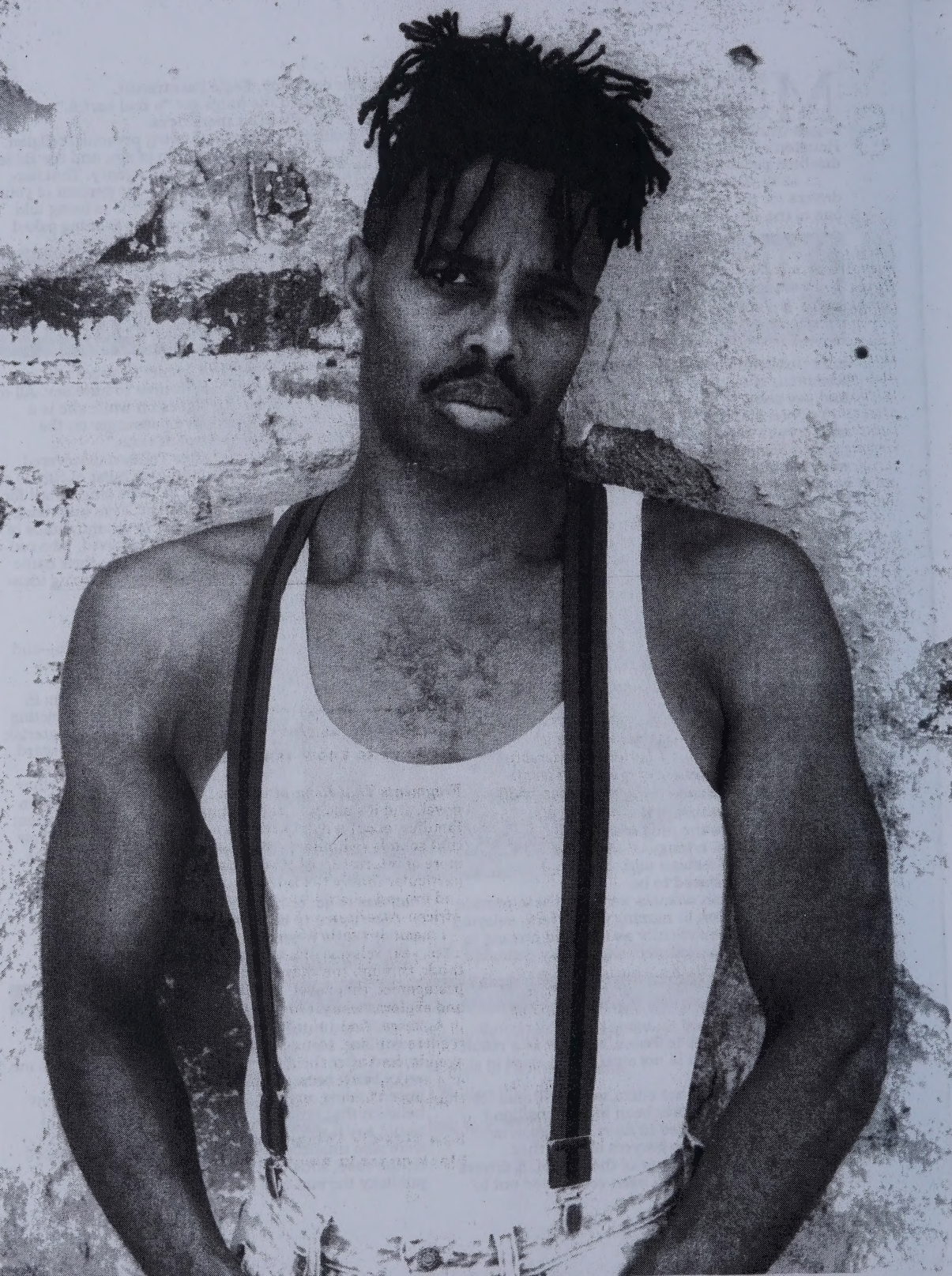
BY MARK HAILE

as discrimination based on being physically handicapped, which is illegal in Texas, and not as a result of her being gay, which is not a protected class in that state.

Frye retorted, that if her client was not handicapped, she "wouldn't have been in this position."

Judge Jack O'Neill ruled in favor of Tellison in June of 1988, after Metro lawyers argued they weren't liable for the behavior of the MetroLift drivers because the van service had been contracted out to

Transit continues to insist that no harassment ever took place. Metro's lawyer Dennis Gardner was quoted after the trial as having said, "It sounds to me we're being ordered to keep from doing what we weren't doing anyway. There's nothing inconsistent between that order and our customary policy, so I would say it will have no impact." Metro attorneys were also unsuccessful in getting a gag order placed on the case, sought due to the substantial local publicity the suit was attracting.



THE BLK INTERVIEW

STEVEN CORBIN

by Larry Duplechan

*I first became aware of Steven Corbin in 1989, when a friend recommended Corbin's first novel, **No Easy Place To Be**, in response to my oft-repeated complaint of the lamentable dearth of fiction by black gay male writers. Corbin's story of a close-knit, talented, but troubled black family set during the Harlem Renaissance, involved and moved me, and the dust jacket photograph of the handsome author intrigued me. At the same time, I simmered with professional jealousy over the novel's cross-over success (which success has eluded my own work) and Corbin's relative financial good fortune (I'd heard through the publishing grapevine that Corbin's advance for his first novel had been more than double what I'd received for my third).*

*I met Steven in November of 1990, when we both appeared on a panel of black male writers for the Los Angeles Afro-American Museum. Struck by his deep-chested, tight-T-shirted physique, 100-watt smile and wide-open personality, coupled with his professed admiration for my second novel, **Blackbird**, I found Steven Corbin impossible to dislike, his relative success notwithstanding. At the end of the panel, we exchanged telephone numbers and promised to keep in touch—a Los Angeles tradition—but, in another L.A. tradition, we didn't.*

We crossed paths again nearly a year later, in October of 1991, at the Black Gay Men's Retreat sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. There, in an atmosphere of (for me, at least) unprecedented openness and sharing in a group of 30 black gay men, Steven and I again expressed our mutual admiration and our desire to pursue a friendship. We have since exchanged countless telephone answering machine messages, one L.A. version of pursuing a friendship.

When I heard BLK was planning an interview with Steven Corbin, I requested the assignment and Steven readily accepted. I found it encouraging that when I called Steven to set a date for the interview, we conversed for nearly an hour, just chatting.

Jersey City born, Steven ("That's Steven, with a VEE," he told me, never Steve) Corbin moved to Los Angeles in 1975 to attend USC's film school, intending to become a screen writer and film maker. The realization that the sort of film he longed to make would likely never be produced in Hollywood's movie industry, and his better-late-than-never discovery of black novelists such as Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and especially James Baldwin, led him to fiction writing.

*His first novel, **No Easy Place To Be** was published by Simon and Shuster, to critical acclaim and sufficient sales to make him a relative rarity—a novelist without a day job after only one novel. His second novel, **Fragments That Remain**, will be published this spring by London's GMP.*

I interviewed Steven on a crisp, unusually clear Sunday afternoon, in the sparsely furnished living room of his home, half of a 1910 vintage house-cum-duplex in the Los Feliz area. The occasional tumbleweed of dog hair skittered across the hardwood floor, courtesy of Sebastian, a large German shepherd given to sniffing at my tape recorder and crotch. Steven sprawled in a large armchair, booted feet up on an ottoman, eyes at half mast, having been awake for some thirty straight hours due to a 10 p.m.-to-10 a.m. shift working the coat room at an all-night underwear party at the Probe. Notwithstanding his allegation that he looked "like shit," my subject looked just fine, thank you, in a sleepy, dishevelled sort of way and despite his weariness, proved more articulate and interesting than most mortals at their very best, gesturing expressively with his hands, often tugging at his headful of dreads while considering a question.

About your upcoming novel, *Fragments That Remain*: tell me what you want BLK's reading audience to know about this book.

Fragments That Remain is a complex and layered novel, and it's about a lot of things: it's about families, about a dysfunctional family (and I know that sounds redundant). But I think what would be more of interest to BLK readers is that, in this particular family the son who is the pivotal character and around whom the entire story is told, is an African-American gay man who, among other things—I mean, his father is dying—he's also coming out of a ten-year relationship with a white lover. So, I think, through the character of Schuyler, my protagonist, this novel, in part, examines and probes and explores what it means to grow up a black queer in America. And I think that's something BLK readers will find very relevant in terms of their own agenda, having some of our collective anguish and joy and ecstasy articulated through this particular character. That's in part what I was trying to do.

How close is Schuyler's experience as a black queer in America to yours?

Close in some ways and not so close in others. I think, in terms of experiencing racism, in all forms—in terms of growing up in a certain culture, and dealing with it also on a more painful level in the gay community, is an experience which is very similar to mine. So I know that I use a lot of my own reactions, experiences, contemplations, through this character.

Tell me about your experience of racism in the gay community.

Well, the gay community, as far as I see it, is sort of a microcosm of the larger society which has bred it. And I have dealt with a lot of pain in dealing with racism in the gay community, on many levels. On personal levels, in terms of dating white guys, dating non-black people in the gay community, and becoming aware of how some attitudes are still pretty...unsophisticated, for lack of a better word. For instance, some white guys that I have dated, a lot of white guys that I've met, especially in this town [Los Angeles], I've felt, in large part, were going out with me as a black man for all the wrong reasons. That's another one of the things I'm dealing with in *Fragments*. Not all the wrong reasons, but certainly some of those reasons.

What are some of the wrong reasons for dating a black man?

In terms of having their own stereotypical ideas about who black men are: their prowess, their virility, their backgrounds. Certain assumptions that are made about you because you are black—

Such as?

Well—and this really sounds far-fetched, but I've heard stuff like this: "I would imagine that you were raised without a father in the house, because most black women, statistically, raise their children that way, in a fatherless home." Stuff like that. Or, I had a white guy tell me once that he'd always thought that every black person, in terms of physical attraction, liked any white person they could get, because that was some kind of status symbol. Like, if you could attain *this*, then you're sort of special.

Do you think that particular stereotype is entirely unfounded?

No, it's not entirely unfounded. But, I think what's disturbing about it is to make the assumption which is based on a stereotype. And, ironically enough, my parents separated when I was about 11, so half of my life I was raised in a fatherless home. But still...

Some of the other racism we deal with in the gay community, that I especially experience—because I'm a political activist—is in terms of organizations. Again, under the larger umbrella of the gay

community, there is a lot of dissension. And a lot of it is racist. And you'll hear things go down in ACT-UP that are racist, in a very subtle way. Like, a black woman might get up and talk about AIDS in the black community. And, of course, blacks and Latinos are the people who are getting AIDS now, those numbers are soaring. Ten white guys get up and walk out of the meeting.

Meaning they just didn't give a fuck?

They didn't want to hear that. It's not their problem. Let those black people get their own shit together, that's not our concern.

Last week, we were voting on a demonstration which is coming up...which coincides with the weekend of Oakland [the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and the National Cultural Gathering and Retreat]. And so, people were making comments on the floor that the demonstration coincides with that, and maybe black people and other people of color would want to attend. And you could hear people in the room going [he heaves a big sigh, rolls his eyes upward]. That's racist to me.

Which is one of the reasons it's really important for me to be a member of something like ACT-UP, because it's important, I think for us to be visible in organizations such as ACT-UP. So there's that kind of racism.

There's the racism of quiet quotas. Blacks couldn't get into a club after a certain number were in. You got hassled, you got asked for two or three pieces of I.D. Look at our [gay] literature, look at our magazines, our newsletters. Who represents the gay community on the cover of *Edge* every time you look at it, or the cover of *Frontiers*. It's never us. And they call themselves, presumptuously enough, the nation's leading gay magazine. And that's an insult to us and lesbians, as well. They don't deal with any women's issues, they don't deal with any lesbian issues.

Frontiers, you're talking about?

Frontiers and *Edge*. *Frontiers*, for instance, will have Latino boys on the cover, but who knows they're Latino? They're the most Caucassoid looking, non-threatening, non-swarthy Latino men they could find. And there's something wrong with that.

My brother, who is not gay, but is, obviously, black, once said something to me that's always stuck with me. He said he has trouble dealing with most white men, because white men act as if the world belongs to them.

Absolutely.

And I pointed out to him that, in fact, it does, on a lot of levels. And since, as you've said,

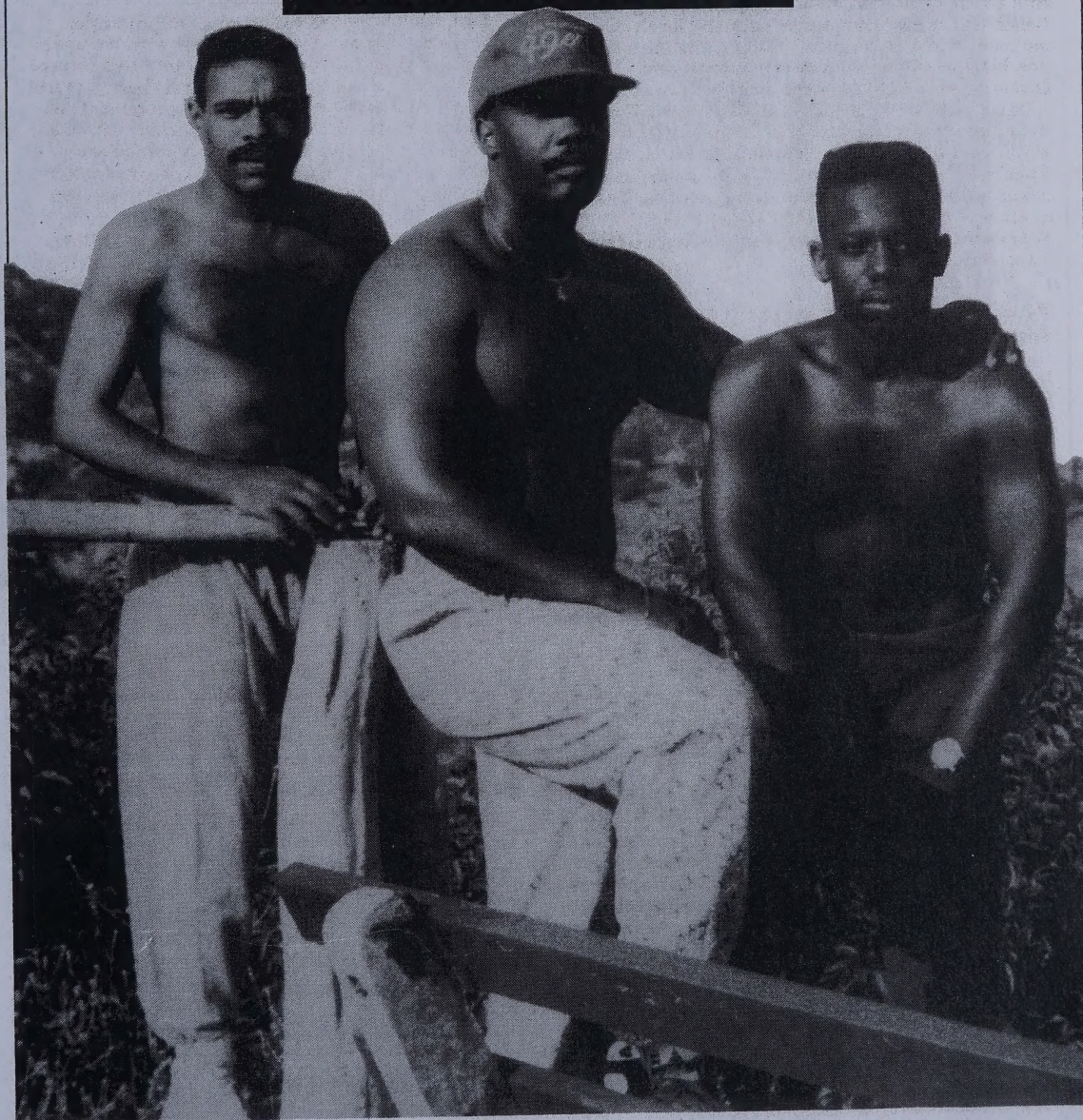
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the gay community is a microcosm of the community at large, what do you see as our plan of action as people of color, as women, as women of color, as anyone who's not white, male, hung, good looking and built, in what is basically a subculture that is created by, for and about white men?

In terms of remedying that? I think we need a little bit of sharing. We just have to recognize and acknowledge that there are other gay people in the gay community aside from white men. And be inclusive of everybody of color and women, who are substantial people, who are making contributions toward the same cause, the same goal.

One of the things that really struck me when I came to L.A. from New York was how segregated the gay community was out here. In New York, everyone partied together. Little did I know that that was going to be the pattern for what I'd see later on, politically and socially and so forth. So I think one of the ways in which we can remedy this is to allow women and so-called minorities to be more represented in the gay community overall. There's responsibility on both parts, but especially on the part of white men, because they are the ones who are the power structure.

So how do we get the white boys to let us play in what is basically their yard?

I don't know how we get to do that. I kind of know what we need to do, but how we're going to arrive at that is really sort of beyond me. Especially in regards to white men. They don't give up nothin'.

Historically.

Historically. They ain't give up shit! And everything you get you have to fight for. And that's a really good question. Because really, what we're trying to say to them is—well, let's take just one little slice of it: the cover of *Frontiers*, and say, "How about you white boys giving the cover, at least half the year to men of color, and women." How about the movers and shakers in this community who happen to be lesbians? Some of the most impressive people in ACT-UP are women. And so, I would like to see more of that. I don't know that I really have the answers. But they have to relinquish a little bit of the power, and share that, and let the voices of people of color come through.

Just to play devil's advocate a bit here, why should they? Or rather, why would they?

I don't think they would. Why should they is another question. We know why they should, but why would they, is almost rhetorical.

Because the fact is, as I've said, the world does belong to those white guys, and since they're gay white guys, and so in a position where they can't be on top of the heap in the larger society—

They'll rule the smaller fish bowl. That's what AB-101 was all about. That's what the whole gay movement was all about for me. White guys were saying, "I've grown up white and male in America. And you're gonna discriminate against me because of my sexuality?" Because it's just unheard of to deny them anything.

Because they're raised to be king of the hill and suddenly, they're being treated like niggers.

Exactly. "We're not going to be the niggers" is what they're saying. And they don't really look to recruit other people. You go to these demonstrations, everybody's white, for the most part.

Do you think that's by design?

I think it's just sub-consciously, maybe consciously exclusionary. It's like, "We can do this ourselves. We don't care to have your input." And even if that's not the message that's really being transmitted, it's the one that's being interpreted. So I'm not trying to just dump it all on them; but I think that's how a lot of black people feel.

How did you go from the USC film school, intending to be a screen writer, to becoming a novelist?

I had been so entrenched in my [film] education, I wasn't given the opportunity to read any real literature. So I started reading all this fiction, and specifically black fiction. I had never read *Native Son*, I'd never read Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. I'd talked to white kids at USC who had read that in high school. I'd never read James Baldwin's *Go Tell It On The Mountain*.

That amazes me.

It's amazing to me, too. What happened was, I was reading literature generally, and concentrating on black literature...and the more I was reading, the more I understood, or at least thought, that I could possibly do this. Write novels. It seemed an attractive art form. You can kind of be an artist. Then, something profound happened. I don't say that to sound melodramatic, but it really was profound: I read James Baldwin's *Just Above My Head*. My favorite Baldwin novel.

Mine, too.

I'm glad you share that with me. And then I said, God damn! And I worked my way back: *Giovanni's Room*, *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. And I thought, This man is a black queer, and he's saying "I'm a black queer, and these are my stories and fuck you!" And I thought, that speaks to my anger, speaks to my rage, as both a black and queer man. And he's getting away with that! This man has published how many fuckin' novels and plays and essays. And I said, Hmmm. When I was reading Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Richard Wright and all those other greats, those works said to me, "You can do this." Baldwin's work said, "You *must* do this."

So it would be safe to say that Baldwin is a hero of yours.

Oh, absolutely. I adore him, and adore his work.

Do we have a James Baldwin now?

No.

Are you hoping to be that?

You know, to say that I hope to be that would be really presumptuous on my part. Because I don't really think there will be another Baldwin.

Really?

No, because I'm thinking of the whole, total man. The novelist, the playwright—not just the prolificacy, but



the different forms he worked in as a writer—essays, and really top-notch in everything he did. Here's a man who's written in all these different forms. Then, also, had his own political activist agenda. And what makes him even more unique is that he was caught up in a time, during the 60's, when his career was sort of parallel to what was happening in the civil rights movement. And he became a voice for black people, in many ways. Our shit was articulated through his work. Which is not to say that he was the spokesman for us, but he was certainly one of the most visible and the most heard.

If I could be, an eighth of what Baldwin was... because to me he is so mythical in his proportions. He was certainly the best black writer America ever produced. Which is interesting, because he and Langston Hughes are the two greatest black writers and they were both queers. I find that very interesting, but no surprise.

I would hope to have a career as prolific as his. And that's really all I can say about that because I don't think I could ever be...[shrugs]

Have you ever considered going back to film, becoming a screenwriter or film maker.

No, but anything's possible. I never rule anything out. But I'm very concentrated on my work as a fiction writer. I think I'm a writer of some talent; I think I'm a good writer; I think I fail; I think I pass sometimes. But I would someday like to be a great writer, if that's possible. But I know it's going to take everything I've got to do that. So who knows what could happen later on? But it would have to be something that really speaks to me, here [points to his heart]. Like with Madonna doing [a film of] *Giovanni's Room* —

Really? I hadn't heard that.

She talked about it in the *Advocate*. And she was talking about the fact that they hadn't hired any writers. Now, something like that, I would love to do. I would love to work with someone else on something like that.

One last little Baldwin thing: you wrote in the *Advocate* something to the effect that American society only allows one prominent black novelist per generation. You've already said you don't think we've got a Baldwin now. Do you see anyone as being the black male writer of our generation; and if so, who might that be?

No, I don't think we have one. And that was part of what I was saying in that article in the *Advocate*.

That, first of all, it's insulting in and of itself to allow us *one*, as it were.

Do we even have our one?

No, we don't even have that *one*. What's even more insulting is that Baldwin's place hasn't even been filled. This man died in 1987. James Baldwin's been dead four years. Now, what has happened since then is that Charles Johnson went on to win the National Book Award for *Middle Passage*. And he's the first black man to win it since Ralph Ellison was awarded it for *Invisible Man*. James Baldwin was scheduled to win it the year after Ellison for *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. And the judges said—

Not two in a row?

Not two in a row! But I must also say that I do see a burgeoning of black male writers out there, in unprecedented numbers. Queer and everything else. And I think that's true of black writers generally, but certainly for black men. So, I'll take what I can get, know what I mean? And whoever's going to even attempt to fill Baldwin's shoes, I hope that there's ten or 20. And perhaps we'll be among them, as queer, black male writers. You or me or Randall Kenan or Melvin Dixon, or whomever.

You have, in fact, finished yet another novel.

Yes.

And do we want to say anything about that?

Yeah, we can. This novel, my third novel, was the easiest novel to write. And it was the most difficult to write. It is the most autobiographical of all of my novels. The first novel is very, very minimally autobiographical. The second novel is maybe 40 percent autobiographical. The third novel is a lot more so, because it's an AIDS novel which chronicles the ill-fated relationship of two star-crossed lovers, who fall in love after sort of looking for each other for years. And then one of them gets sick. So, they have everything to live for, in terms of each other and their careers. And their lives are just blown out of the water by the fact that one of them gets AIDS. This story is based on my own experience with my late lover.

It was a novel I had to write. I couldn't write anything else until I wrote this. I recognize it as a brick wall I had to break through. It acted as a catharsis, as therapy, as a way of having a monologue about the most tragic thing ever to happen in my life. Nineteen-ninety-one was a year of mourning for me, for the most part; my lover died in October of 90, and from that point on, up until damn near three-quarters of 1991, I was in deep mourning. And in writing the novel, there were many scenes, as you can imagine, where I had to really call up a lot of stuff, where I would literally be there, sitting at my

desk, unable to see the words, because I was blinded by tears. I know that sounds melodramatic, but it's true. But when I finished, I realized that when I took it out of here [indicates his heart], and put it on some paper, that was like the beginning of the end of the horrible part of the healing. I grieved less after I wrote it. And it seemed like things were really beginning to lift, as I'd been wanting them to lift for months. I was tired of crying, I was tired of hurting, tired of missing him. I'm not used to being a perpetually depressed person, just wallowing in depression. I wasn't working, I wasn't writing, I wasn't teaching. I needed that time to heal myself. Lick my wounds.

So, I'm most proud of that novel—it's called *One Hundred Days From Now*, because—I call it a wartime novel. It has a lot of different levels of conflict and dynamic, because one of the lovers is black and one is Latino, and he was in the closet for 20 years and he's just coming out of his closetedness; and his family doesn't even know he's gay, and they're lying to his friends about his having leukemia. There's all these different things.

Do you have a publisher for it?

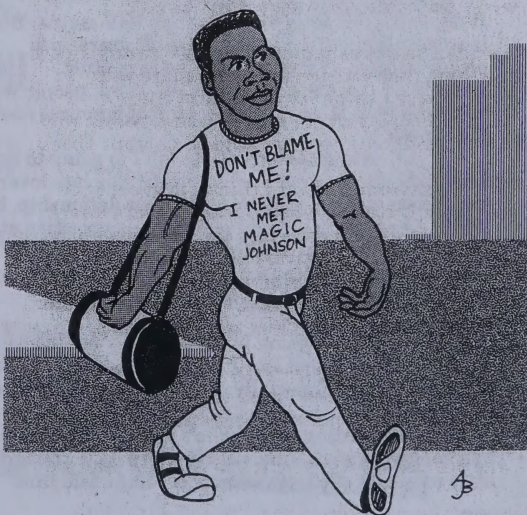
No, we're still shopping it.

On the general subject of AIDS: you're HIV positive.

Yes. How'd you know that?

You mentioned it at the Black Gay Men's Retreat.

I don't remember discussing my HIV status there.



You didn't discuss it; you sort of dropped it at one of the big pow-wow type gatherings, where one of the subjects was about romances between HIV positive and negative. What bearing does your HIV status have on your work: either what you write, or how fast you feel you have to write it or anything like that? I ask because, a couple of years back, Mark Thompson was telling me about the umpteen projects he was working on, all at once. And I said, Why are you doing all this at one time? And he said, I'm HIV positive, I don't have forever.

That's Paul Monette's thing, too. I don't know if that's my thing. I certainly hope to leave a good body of work, whenever I die, for whatever reason I die. But I really deal with my HIV status, for the most part, in a very—I have a life to live. I have a career. I have work to do. And I'm not saying that in the sense of "I have to get these books out now because next week I might be symptomatic," because I'm not symptomatic. I have high T-cells, I'm healthier than I've ever been. So I don't feel that same immediacy as, say, Paul Monette. Which is a big reason for his prolificacy. But for me, I don't really use that as an impetus to get all this work out all of a sudden.

I don't necessarily have to die from this—anything can happen. And I'm not even going to project that far into the future. I'm just going to take this a day at a time, live my life, try to find me a husband, settle down and have some kids, you know? And write my fuckin' books. And go about my business.

When you're seeing someone, romantically, at what point do you drop that shoe?

It depends. I'm not ashamed of my HIV status. But it is something that you don't run and share with people. Because I think it's an issue of trust, sometimes. People can get kind of weird, people who might have kids, say, and are kind of ignorant about the illness.

When I date somebody, if I think I'm going to be involved—for instance, when Carlos [his late lover] and I were dating, ten days into the relationship, he told me he was HIV positive. I was also positive at the time, but I didn't tell him then, because I didn't feel the need to. Because I wasn't even that *into* him. So I did tell him later on, three weeks into the relationship.

If I feel like I'm going to really, really be involved with somebody, I feel like I need to tell them within the first month. Especially if there's going to be sex involved.

I was just dating a guy, who's in ACT-UP. And we had really hit it off. And we were having a wonderful little affair for a couple of months. But I told him

about my HIV status about two weeks into it. And I was absolutely shattered. We were in the Beverly Center when I told him—we were going to a movie and we had time to kill. He just started crying. He'd told me he was an emotional person. But when he cried, it also told me how much he cared for me. Because, what the discussion was about was that he had basically decided in his mind that we were going to be boyfriends. So he was devastated. He's a foreigner, he's from India, he's been in this country three years. And despite his AIDS activism, he's AIDS-phobic. And was dealing with his fear on two major levels. Number one, the possibility of being infected himself. But more than that, losing me.

And that's why he couldn't allow himself to get involved. And it was not an unwise decision. I tried very hard not to be judgmental about the irrationality of his fear, especially as an AIDS activist. But I also understood. Because that is some pain I wouldn't wish on anybody.

Just another reality of your HIV life. Dating in the '90s.

On the subject of HIV in the Nineties, let's talk Magic Johnson for a moment, shall we?

Well, let me just say that I feel for Magic Johnson like I feel for anybody who's dealing with the virus. The way in which all this support has galvanized around the fact that he had been diagnosed is not his fault. He is a sports hero. He is a god by the definition of Western society. And we all know that they celebrate AIDS cases, more often than not, who are heterosexuals: the Kimberly Bergalis, the Ryan Whites. Now, that's a double-edged sword, because we do have a great deal of support, as I said, galvanizing around these issues, driving the point home a little bit more. But, it's also their way of saying, "That faggot disease has smeared, or tainted poor Kimberly Bergalis, poor Ryan White, poor Magic Johnson. Those fags, look what they did. Now their shit has spread to him, or her."

But the other side of that coin is, people smell that fuckin' coffee. And they realize, this is not, as we've been saying for ten fuckin' years, this is not a fag disease, Honey! A virus is a virus, okay?

So I had mixed feelings. On one hand, I thought: was just terrible to hear that about Magic Johnson. But incredibly courageous, and honest, for him to do what he did. Because he didn't have to do that. He could have kept it a totally private issue. And he could have decided he wasn't going to do shit about in terms of his political activism or getting involved he didn't have to do that. And he doesn't have to do any more or any less than anybody else because he's a public figure.

But what maddened me, of course, and angered me, and totally pissed me off, was how the world treated him, as if he was the first person to be diagnosed with HIV. Oh, poor Magic! And



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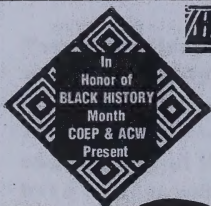
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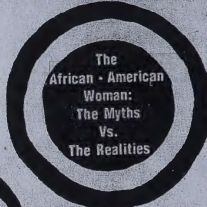
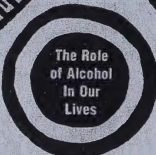
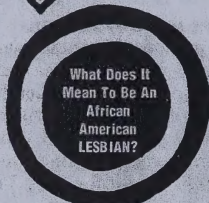
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Women's Calendar of Events for FEBRUARY

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT	THE CENTER L.A. GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	SAVE THE DATE: 5th Annual June Swoon June 14th 3 - 6 pm		For More Information Call COEP (213) 957 - 3081		"Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19728 Nordoff (NW corner of Corbin) Northridge Upstairs in World of Dance
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	NEW RAP GROUP!! "Over 35" GLCSC 1213 N. Highland # 108 7:30 - 9 pm	Queer Rites Workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm Writing About Love Terry Wolverton 7 - 9 pm "About Lesbians of Color & Their Lesbian Friends" 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 Santa Monica Bl.	Last Drag: Quit Smoking One in Long Beach Co - Sponsor 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender Call to register & for info. 213 - 957 - 3081 \$50	"Coming Out" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm ACW 1147 S. Alvarado \$20 for 4 - week series	"Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	Queer Rites Workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm "For Women of Color Only" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Last Drag: Quit Smoking One in Long Beach Co - Sponsor 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender Call to register & for info. 213 - 957 - 3081 \$50	"Singles" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Urbi Room	Valentine Women's Dinner & Dance ♥ ♥ "Valley" Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Ski Trip To Mountain High Pre-register 213-957-3081 \$45 7 am CENTER CLOSED No Over 35 Rap	Queer Rites: 8 - week writing workshop Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm Open Topic Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Last Drag: Quit Smoking 7:30 - 9 pm 6 sessions • Co - Gender \$50 Forgiveness: Opening Doors For A New Future Norma Cappello, MFCC 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. 7:30 - 9 pm	"Relationships" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm ACW - 1147 S. Alvarado Must Pre-Register \$20 for 4 - week series	"Out On Tuesday" Television Series 8 - 10 pm at ETV 8547 Santa Monica Bl. Valley Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Lesbian Forum Black Lesbians in Politics A New Force 11 am - 2 pm Black History & Awards Program 7 - 10 pm Lesbian Mothers & Their Children 12 - 2 pm	Starting Over 7:30 - 9 pm 1213 N. Highland Ave. Room 108	"Wellness Project: Eroticizing Safer Sex For Black Lesbians Mary Henderson 7 - 9 pm Queer Rites Doug Sadownick 7:30 - 9:30 pm "Racism" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm	"Wellness Project: Feminist Perspectives On Addictions Nan Van Den Bergh, PhD 7:30 - 9 pm Ravenous Readers "The Bluest Eye" 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. 7:30 - 9 pm	Communication With Your Partner Dr. Louise Mebane Dr. Lynne Peterson 7 - 9:30 pm "Dating Skills" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Wildie Room	Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud! A. Allen, N. Valentino 7 - 9 pm @ ACW \$20 for 4 - week series "For Bisexuals" Rap 7:30 - 9 pm 7051 - C Santa Monica Bl. Urbi Room	"Women In Love" Film & Discussion Dr. Sylvia Rhue 8 - 10 pm at ETV 8547 Santa Monica Bl. Valley Rap 5 - 6:30 pm 19729 Nordoff

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROJECT: 7051 SANTA MONICA BL. 213 • 957 • 3081

muthafuckahs have been dying for ten years and where the fuck were you people!

My third novel, *One Hundred Days From Now*, I'm dedicating it to everybody I've known personally who has died of AIDS. And the list is ever growing. One week alone, I had to add three names to the dedication page. Three names! So, we're in this together. And it's scary, the level of ignorance, because that's what's going to abet the disease, help it spread.

Do you think Magic Johnson is going to do anybody any good?

I think yes, in some ways. And it may not be the hands-on, concrete results of what organizations are doing or what President Bush might be doing now, or health organizations. One of the most important things that Magic Johnson's diagnosis is doing, I feel, is that it is educating people. It is really waking people up. It's almost as if he were a divinely chosen person, picked to be the next example of who AIDS can happen to. Not just Rock Hudson, because Magic Johnson is above and beyond that in terms of his appeal and his popularity. So I think that when you hear Rev. Carl Bean talking about how the phone rang off the hook at the Minority AIDS Project the day after the announcement, that is sending out a very important, loudly-resounding message that straight people think they can't get it. They don't think they have to use condoms. And now Magic Johnson has it, and so now it's real. I think that's what's really important. Because it's ignorance, and denial, and finger-pointing that act as a petri dish for a virus like HIV. There's no disease like the disease of fear, and prejudice.

What are you writing now? Novel four?

No, I haven't started it yet. But after I finished the third novel, I wrote a couple of short stories, one of which I sent to Terry Wolverton for her upcoming anthology, *Still Indivisible*. And I wrote, I think, the best short story I've ever written. I wrote a story about my father, called *My Father's Son*, and it's unequivocally my favorite short story that I have.

This is fiction?

All I write is fiction. So that's what I've been working on recently. So probably the next project I tackle will be the fourth novel. I was hoping to be in London and writing it there, you know, that whole romantic notion of writing in a foreign country, à la Baldwin, à la Langston Hughes.

You really need Paris for that.

But London will do. See, the thing about London that's real desirable for me, is that my career is very

visible there. They published my first novel, they're publishing the second novel. I just had two short stories published there, one in November, one in December. So, I'm really visible there, in ways that I'm not here.

Any idea why that is?

It's the old, classic cliché, that so many African-Americans find fame in cultures outside their own, first. It's like a bandwagon mentality. America looked at how popular Jimi Hendrix had become in London, or how well Josephine Baker was doing in Paris, or Jody Watley in London, Terence Trent D'Arby, James Baldwin or Richard Wright in Paris; and then, they jump on the bandwagon, to take credit for that. The British bought my second novel like [snaps his fingers] that. A chapter was published in a magazine, an editor was on his way to work, reading the chapter, liked it; got to the office, called the magazine to see if I was being represented in the United Kingdom; they said yes; she forwarded the manuscript, and a month later, they made me an offer. That would never have happened in America. Not as a black, queer writer.

So, I'd like to write a project in another cultural setting. I'd like to do Paris, too; that's my first choice. I love Paris: it's my favorite European city, it's my second favorite city in the world I've seen so far, the first being New York. But in London, I have the audience, I have the readership. It just might be the place for me to be.

What are you reading now?

I'm reading short stories. I'm reading the anthology that just published me in Great Britain. It's a GMP anthology, called *More Like Mines*. And then there's a literary journal that I was published in, called *Passport*. And both of them are samplings of international writers. And I'm also reading *Men on Men II*. To read an international representation of writers is pretty exciting and stimulating. You see all the different cultural styles, the way different writers work. And also, I like to see what company I'm in.

For instance, some of the stuff in *More Like Mines* is really good. Do you know who Lev Raphael is?

Certainly.

He has a story in there called "Beth Homo." Larry, this story is so wonderful to me. And I just think... Wow. And they published my story? Anyway, that's what I'm reading now.

Unlike the general public, I happen to know that you have a beautiful singing voice, because you sang a capella, and beautifully, for the talent show at the Black Gay Men's

Retreat. And I'm curious, had you ever considered a career as a singer?

Yes. That's what I thought I was going to do. We share that, although you actually pursued it, but I didn't. I was a closet singer. A shower singer. The only public singing I ever participated in was in church choirs and school choirs. I was always made a soloist, and people always said, "Oh, you have a nice voice," and I love music. But it was never much more than that. But I think, because of my passion for music, my love for music, I kind of (in a passive way) thought, "That's what I'll pursue, I'll be a singer." And I'm still a frustrated singer. I would love to be able to sing, to be able to do them both.

In terms of romantic or sexual relationships, do you have any sort of racial agenda? Do you go out looking for white men, or black men? Do you have a preference?

No. I'm one of those rare people who have no racial preferences. I don't have types. My only type is good looking, and *about* something, working toward something, doing something with your life. In regard to black men in Los Angeles, I can't get *arrested* by one.

[big laugh] That was a laugh of recognition, because I feel the same way.

I mean it. I can't get *arrested* by black men. And I say specifically Los Angeles, because here, black men want the guy on the cover of *Frontiers*. I've had two relationships in my life. One man, I lived with for six

years. He was Argentine. And my second lover, the one who died, was Mexican. From Mexico City. A self-made millionaire. Indisputably one of the most brilliant people I had ever met in my life. Rich, beautiful, knowledgeable, all those things. His mother was an Anglo woman from the mid-West, who went on vacation to Mexico, and met his father there. And when I met him, I thought he was white, because he was sandy-haired and had beautiful blue eyes. And I noticed a little Spanish lilt to his speech, which was really sexy. And he told me his name was Carlos, and I thought, what is somebody as Anglo as you doing with a name like Carlos? And the guy I mentioned before, in ACT-UP, he's Indian, from Bombay.

I don't care, Larry. I get so annoyed with all these narrowly defined requirements that people want from their men. And they say, Well, you like what you like. But it's not that simple. You like what you're *told* to like. When you see that issue of *Edge*, when you see that issue of *Frontiers*, that is sending out a subliminal message that *this* is what's hot. This is the superior beauty example. You should want *this*. And many people fall for that, unquestioningly.

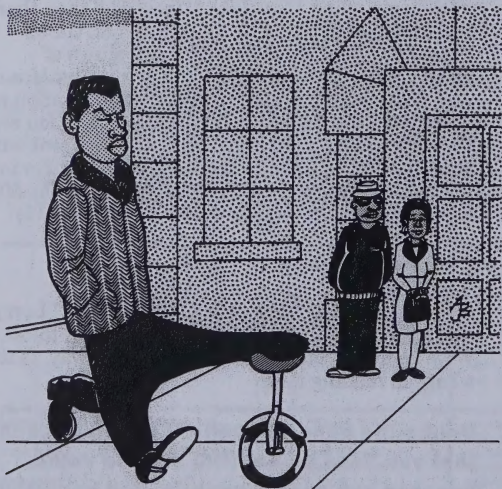
I just kind of like *men*. And I also think you can be black and be with somebody white, as long as you know who you are, and you have a point of reference about yourself—culturally, racially, historically—know where you're from. And not try to pass over to the other side, where the other racially different partner is. Love is where you find it, it really is. And this world is so bereft of love, of good candidates. I don't even want to get into the whole *men* thing.

The "whole men thing"?

I have this ongoing love/hate thing with men.

Well, let's talk about that for a little bit.

Okay. I think so many men—especially queer men—are not equipped to be loved, to commit. All those phobias we hear about heterosexuals all the time—it's true of gay men, too. And I can be as much of a slut as anyone, if that's what I choose to do. But I'm much more focused on being involved with someone, sharing my life with someone, building something with someone. And there are a lot of men out there who claim they want a boyfriend, they want to be committed, but they really don't. And that disturbs me. I don't think there's anything wrong with having as part of the gay subculture the leaning toward promiscuity. That's fine. And I'm not trying to be judgmental about any of that. But one of the things we don't emphasize in the gay community is relationships. We don't promote that. We don't talk about that. Maybe we see it as an imitation of what middle-class heterosexual life is, I don't really know where that's coming from. But we just don't seem to have a balance. I think there's something to be said for couples who are together for years and years. How



Be careful what you wish for. You just may get it.

come we don't celebrate that? How come we don't talk about that? It's like something that's in the closet.

And then, some queer men will get upset when we're portrayed as these sexual beings. Well, who can you blame the image [on], because that's the way we behave, the way we've structured our values. And in a way, I love the whole sexiness and decadence and gorgeous men—I love all of that. But, there is something else to us. We're more than just sexual beings.

I think there's a little too much emphasis on debauchery, on the sexual entity in our culture. I just wish there was more of a balance.

What I'd like to see a little more of, is that sense of family we have in the gay community. And that's on several levels. We have a sense of family in that, no matter how close we are to our own families—and I'm very close to my family, my family is very gay-friendly, everybody in my fuckin' life knows I'm a fag—and still, it's not the same thing as being at a retreat with 29 other black gay men, or being with gay friends on Christmas Eve. This sense of family that we have, whether that be a nuclear family like you and Greg, or the extended family where you have friends who come together because we totally understand each other. And no matter how gay-friendly our biological families are, they don't understand you in some ways that I understand you, by virtue of the fact that we're both queer men. And I'd like to see more emphasis on that.

Do you see that happening in the community?

I think so, but I think it's very minimal. And I think we're overloaded and overwhelmed with the other, which is the sexual thing, the promiscuity, the live-for-today attitude.

I certainly try to do what I can through my work. Having written *One Hundred Days From Now*, I've written two stories about a relationship between two men who obviously have some sense of family among themselves. And in *Fragments That Remain*, as I said, although Schuyler is coming out of a ten-year relationship with a white guy, they're still trying to work it out, to find some way to be together. Which is also part of the story—will they be able to do it.

A small semantic issue: you seem to use the words "gay" and "queer" pretty much interchangeably. Are they interchangeable for you?

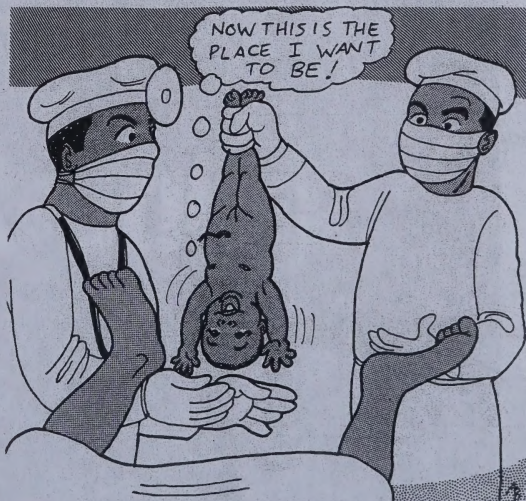
Well, you know, I find that lately—especially the more I become entrenched in my political activism, where the word "queer" is thrown around a lot—that word has made its way into my vocabulary, somehow. And I really like defining myself as queer.

Why?

It's like—you didn't tell me, I told you. If you want me to be your queer, I'll be your queer. You want me to be your nigger, I'll be your nigger. And it's not from a place of hostility; it's just—I'll be a queer, if that's the way in which you can listen to me, or hear me, or address me, or identify me. In a way that you feel comfortable. And I'm giving it right back to you—yeah, I'm a queer. What about it? To me, it's a self-empowerment thing. And I find I'm using it more than "gay." And, for the sake of argument, I guess they are interchangeable. Except I think that "queer," at least in my mind, denotes an edge of radicalism. An edge of visibility. It says, I'm not going to be quiet. Maybe gay people will be quiet. Queers aren't quiet.

Is that because the word "queer" is so closely associated with Queer Nation, who are not a quiet bunch?

I think even before Queer Nation—and I'm sure that's why they use that term, because that particular identification was becoming more widely used. It was like turning the tables. We never used to like being called queer or faggot. And I refer to myself on many occasions as a faggot, as queer; not meaning to be disparaging to myself, at all. So, I think it was even there before Queer Nation got it. And then they took it and put it out there. And now everybody relates it to them, which is fine. I thought it was great, when I heard about this organization called Queer Nation. "I'm here, I'm queer and fuck you!" I like that kind of shit. That kind of stuff speaks to me, because that's what it's gonna take. You never make any kind of gains, socially, politically, economically, by being nice. We all know that. Being this nice little



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EXT. 14

gay boy, this nice little proper Negro, like we were raised to be. Non-threatening, non-confrontational. So the word "queer" really speaks to that.

When did you grow your dreadlocks, and why?

I started them in May of 1988, so I've had them nearly four years. In a world, in a culture, in a city where we're still dealing with racial self-hatred and black people who don't love themselves; in the face of Jheri-curls and hair weaves; I felt compelled, literally, to make a statement about my ethnicity. It was a way of asserting my ethnicity. I was raised by two parents who taught us never to alter anything of your natural make-up; i.e., putting chemicals in your hair. When I was growing up, it was the "process." The process segued into the Jheri-curl. And, especially in Los Angeles, the Image Capital. And there are so many black people in this town, especially in the gay community, again—who are trying to be replicas of white America in the way they wear their hair. And I don't really have a problem with that, *per se*, as much as I have a problem with the changes we put ourselves through to alter ourselves.

I wish I could see more ethnic looking women in L.A. In New York, you see a lot of black women who look black. They celebrate their blackness. They wear hair-do's like you've never seen before, that just come out of a black woman's creativity.

As to my dreadlocks, I remember wanting to have them. And I always had these jobs, like you, working in law firms. And of course, you can't wear them there. And there I was, I'd sold *No Easy Place To Be*, I'm living on this little money, I'm a full-time writer and—oh! I can have dreadlocks now! In London, you see more people with dreadlocks than here. They're also much more commonplace in New York, on the East Coast.

So, that's where the dreadlocks come from. I just feel like sometimes I have to assert myself as an African-American queer; trying to remain visible; trying to get through life like anybody else, without any compromise about who I am and what I look like. Without someone dictating to me what my aesthetic should be, what my agenda should be, what my program should be, who I should be sleeping with. I have to do that for myself.

On the subject of chemical and surgical alteration, the sight of Michael Jackson must make you run screaming.

Yes, he does. What are black kids thinking when they see him?

I can't imagine. I literally can't imagine.

I can't, either. And there must be some white kids—and maybe some black kids, too—who don't have any

prior point of reference about Michael Jackson, before the surgeries. They may not even know if he's black or white. I can just see white kids asking their parents, Is he white, Mommy? Because white people tend to be really naive about those things. If we have what they think are Caucasoid features and lighter skin complexions, its like—Oh, you couldn't possibly be totally black, because you're too beautiful and your hair is too straight or wavy or whatever. And it's the same kind of dynamic with this Michael Jackson thing. And what could be more ironic than "It doesn't matter if you're black or white," when he's trying to be as white as possible? And I just think it's very sad. There's a part of me that's angry about it, but I think I'm much more sad about it than angry. Because this guy is just so lost. And his self-hatred yells just a little bit louder each time he releases an album. The nose has disappeared, the lips have disappeared, the skin is lighter, the hair is straighter. Just look at his videos chronologically.

And I'm so concerned about what message black kids are getting. If they want to be like Michael Jackson. And I think Michael Jackson is a wonderful role model for children, generally, and certainly for black children, I really do. And I was really upset when Farakhan was calling him "sissyish" or whatever. But in that one way, I find him disturbing, because we've had enough self-hatred. I am tired of self-hatred among black people. I am tired of self-hatred among queers. And we just have to get to a place where we can say this is who we are, this is what we have to work with, and this is okay. And it's as good as anybody else's.

So, what color of toilet paper do you use?

Whatever's available. Usually white.



Future GBM.

Oprah Look-alike

BY MARK HAILE



When the *Ladies' Home Journal* held their look-alike contest, Jecquin Stitt's supervisor, Beverly Keller, encouraged Jecquin wholeheartedly to enter. It didn't surprise anyone either that the Flint, Mich. native won the contest, as Stitt was a perfect double for Oprah Winfrey.

"I never intended to imitate her," Stitt told BLK, "I just happened to be looking like her..." The resemblance was stunning enough to start a second career for Stitt, currently employed by the city's Water Department.

For the *Ladies' Home Journal*, the look-alike contest and their winner turned into a quandary when they discovered that Jecquin Stitt, 33,

was actually a man.

Jecquin (pronounced "Jeh-KEEN") never actually mis-identified himself to *LHJ*. "I'm not lying to the public," he told TV station WJRT. "You know, because I *am* going through some changes." Stitt told BLK that the change should be completed by April. That will allow plenty of time for her to prepare for a June wedding with her fiancé, rap artist William Booker.

The first inclination on the part of *LHJ* was to disqualify Stitt, but when lawyers advised that it might pave the way for a sex discrimination case, they shrugged their shoulders and let the show go on as planned.

The prizes included a

complete studio makeover, a photo session and an appearance on *Oprah* with the star herself.

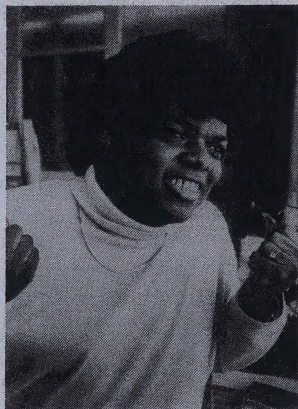
Although Oprah's staff was "really nice," Stitt noted that the appearance was brief, without a chance to even talk with Oprah after the taping. "A few of them told me they wish Oprah was as nice as I was," Stitt told BLK.

The publicity for Stitt from appearing on *Oprah* would be hard to duplicate, but it was far from being her first time as a winner. Since taking first place as Queen of the Ball in 1983, Stitt has twice been named Entertainer of the Year in Flint, and has taken the Miss Copa title as well.

The positive response

Starts 2nd Career

STITT PHOTO BY KENT C. MILLER



in part for starting. Her relatively normal day job and home life has helped Stitt plan her career moves with a level head. She and her fiancé have been supportive of each other's careers, but Stitt doubts, smiling, that she will be in her fiancé's first video, even though they both independently are looking at recording and doing television. Her own first video is now in post-production. Although she has an agent now handling bookings for her and her dance troupe and has also started her own production company, Stitt is intent on staying true to herself—the self that *happens* to look like Oprah. She reminded BLK, “But there’s a lot more to me than that!”

Throughout the whirlwind of publicity, which on top of the *Oprah* appearance has included interviews with *People*, *Time*, *Jet*, *Entertainment Tonight*, CNN, and a visit on *Tell the Truth*, Stitt has had 100 percent support from her family, who help shield her when she needs her privacy. “They think it’s a gas,” said Stitt. “They’re getting used to this attention. They protect me.” They is a pretty normal family, Stitt told BLK, that stays out of the limelight for the most part. Will success change Jequin—more than the changes she’s going through? No, say her co-workers and family, who also have had to adjust to the swarm of publicity they are responsible

to her appearance as Oprah convinced Stitt to get back before the lights, and resulted in her being in constant demand for performances. Her summer schedule has her jumping across the Great Lakes states into Canada, and from Flint to Saginaw to Ann Arbor as well as to clubs from Ohio to Kansas. Stitt has far more in her show than just Oprah. She also gives her audiences a heavy dose of Parti Labelle, Aretha Franklin, Jennifer Holliday and some comedy along with song and dance. Stitt has been able to make time to perform for local benefits, making a priority of helping out groups like Agape, a local AIDS service organiza-

JOE PRESSLEY

By Eric K. Washington

THE organization has done so much for me," Joe Pressley says of the five year old Gay Men of African Descent, better known as GMAD. Pressley was elected in the spring to head the group, but that's not what he means. He easily sees himself as a living testament to GMAD's effectiveness as a support group, and who would be inclined to disagree? After all, this new executive director has only been out for two years. Pressley hastens to credit GMAD for his rapid evolution as he recalls his bashful debut two years ago at one of the group's anniversary picnics in Brooklyn's Prospect Park.

"I was very closeted," Pressley says with an ironic expression. **"I was on my bike and I rode around the park four times until a good friend of mine saw me and said, 'Come on over, come on over! We've been watching you riding around the park all this time.'"** Pressley's 18-speed, like a faithful pet, is steadied by a hand on its saddle while its owner reminisces. **"Ever since that time,"** he confesses, **"I can't keep away."**

Pressley's friends in the organization sometimes chide him, he says, for making GMAD his whole life. It isn't quite. By day the single (and, he notes, eligible) 27-year-old is a technical writer

for computer software, a digression from his major at Syracuse University in African-American studies. Although he works in what he calls a supportive environment, he expresses a desire to eventually **"move out of corporate**

America" to do community-based work.

As initiative in that direction, GMAD is a major step. The organization boasts a roster of about 300 members, a mailing list of about 1200, **"mostly based in New York,"** says Pressley, noting that the group draws from across the country and the Caribbean. **"There's been talk of putting together other chapters,"** he adds, **"but right now we're trying to strengthen our organization capacity here in New York."**

As GMAD's executive director Pressley will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the organization whose mission, he says, is to provide support for men of color of the African diaspora, to politicize people and to promote the well-being of the overall lesbian and gay community. He will also be charged with preparing the budget, co-ordinating and overseeing the Friday membership meeting and working with the board of directors to set policy.

At the time of our talk, Pressley and GMAD were making plans for African-American Day. **"What**

NEAL COLLINS



we want to do this year is make it an all-day event," he says, noting plans for a morning brunch to precede the annual parade through Harlem. **"In the afternoon there's a reception for GMADers who march at Home to Harlem,"** he adds, speaking of the bookstore on 125th Street that is Harlem's main commercial thoroughfare.

One of Pressley's long-range goals for GMAD is to acquire more autonomous working space for the organization. At present the group sublets a portion of office space from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and holds its weekly meetings at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

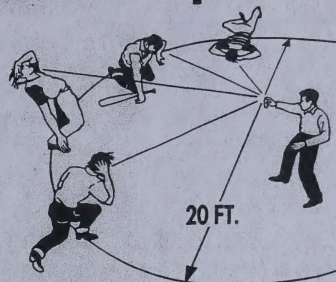
"I'd like to see us have more meetings outside the Center," he says. **"While I think it's important that we realize we have a place in the Center, I think it's important that we start having meetings and doing programs in our respective communities ...I'd like to see us own our own property where we can actually conduct our administrative activities as well as hold our programs and our general meetings. Hopefully in a place like Harlem or in Bed Stuy."**

One goal that Pressley hopes to achieve during his tenure is approval is Federal 501(c)(3) status, the income tax code under which tax-exempt groups are filed.

Pressley expresses another pressing desire he has for the group: He'd like for GMAD to establish itself more strongly as a support lender to some of the existing AIDS-related direct-service organizations for communities of color. Groups such as the Minority Task Force on AIDS, for example. **"Hopefully, not long-range,"** he says, shuddering at the given that AIDS may well remain a long-term crisis. **"I guess, immediately, for over the next couple of years, I'd like to see us giving them (MTFA) our manpower, pulling from our membership, doing hospital visitations and home care, things like that."**

Things like that, one realizes, would hardly have been uttered by this man two years ago. Now, as Joe Pressley remounts his bike and the spokes of the wheels begin to flutter like a loom, he has lost the timid air of someone skirting an uncertain path. He now appears to be spinning that path for others to follow.

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MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS

PHYLLIS HYMAN

"Prime Of My Life"
(Philadelphia International)

It has been five years since her last album, *Living All Alone*, but for Phyllis Hyman this new release reflects "the spiritual, intellectual and creative growth I've been experiencing." Although her first record was released in 1977 on Buddah Records, it was her five year period with Arista Records in which she released such unforgettable hits as "Somewhere In My Lifetime," "You Know How To Love Me," and my personal favorite (which I still listen to today) "The Answer Is You." During this same time she also established a large and loyal fan base.

Long a member of an elite circle of mellow, sophisticated song stylists, Phyllis has consistently been a much-sought-after live performer. Approaching her 15th year as a recording artist, Hyman is very much in touch with the person inside the star. "I feel that I'm more secure and comfortable with myself now," she says. "I've learned to appreciate the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of my voice in a way that I hadn't done in the past."

Although every song in this collection is a winner, there are some standouts. "When I Give My Love (This Time)" exposes Hyman's voice at its sensual best, and is truly one of her greatest ballads. She echoes feelings of passion on the intensely romantic "Meet Me On The Moon." Hyman also comes correct (and



CAROL FRIEDMAN

TOUGH YOUNG TENORS

"Alone Together"
(Antilles/Island)

Unless you've had your head under a rock for the last year, you've no doubt heard a lot of talk about the so-called "young lions" of jazz. A steady stream of incredibly talented young musicians have turned the often complacent jazz world on its collective ear. An exceptional quintet of tenor sax players—James Carter, Herb Harris, Tim Warfield, Jr., Walter Blanding, Jr. and Todd Williams—make this recording well worth seeking out.

The greatest traditions of jazz are preserved, as influences from John Coltrane to Ben Webster shine through. The album's composition allows each player's talent ample opportunities to soar: each player has a solo performance, each does two duets and all five jam in the final track, "The Eternal Triangle." Pianist Marcus Roberts, whose reputation was greatly enhanced by playing with Wynton Marsalis' group, gives the rhythm section added credibility, along with bassist Reginald Veal and drummer Ben Riley.

Harris, a Washington, D.C. native, has a smooth, romantic style that makes "You Go to My Head" one of the album's outstanding ballads. Thelonius Monk's "Ask Me Now," showcasing Blanding's excellent tone and emotional quality, and Duke Ellington's "Stevie," which features both Warfield and Williams, are just a few of many treasures.

contemporary) with the album's slammin' first single, "Don't Wanna Change The World." Does anyone have the phone numbers of any of the dancers in the video?

ULTRA NATE

"Blue Lights in the Basement"

(Eternal/Warner Bros)

As a dance album, this project definitely works: club-goers will love the house beats and bass-heavy rhythms, courtesy of album producers the Basement Boys. As a vocalist, however, Ultra Nate (pronounced nah-TAY) comes up short.

The Baltimore-based Basement Boys (Thomas Davis, Jay Steinhour and Teddy Douglas) have quickly become club music's producers/remixers-of-the-moment, and with good reason. The trio started as DJ's who were heavy into Baltimore's underground

dance scene: these guys know a slammin' beat when they hear one. The threesome was also behind the best-selling debut album by Crystal ("La-de-di, La-de-da") Waters - another non-singing diva.

Nate grew up singing in the church, but the power and intensity that is usually a result of such training does not come through on this album. When attempting higher notes, her voice often fades away. On the gospel-esque "Rejoicing (I'll Never Forget)", her background singers sound as if they're singing on a different record.

All this aside, this album is not without some jams worth noting. The best of these include "Is It Love?," which confirms that disco is becoming a stronger influence on today's dance music. Also worth the journey is "It's Over Now," and the sophisticated, down-tempo "Rain."

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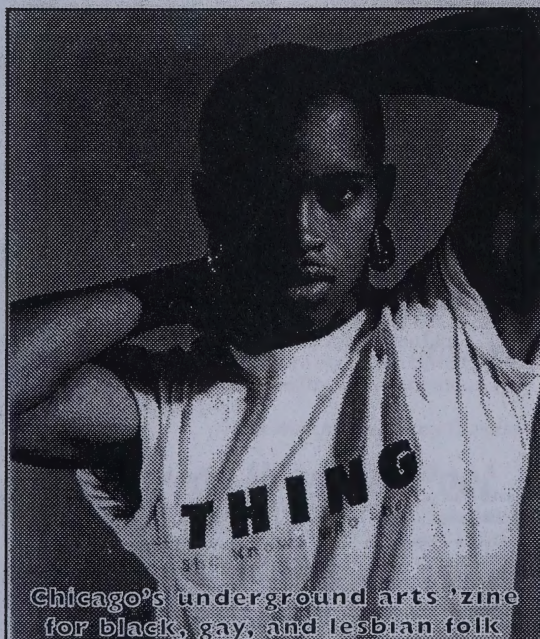
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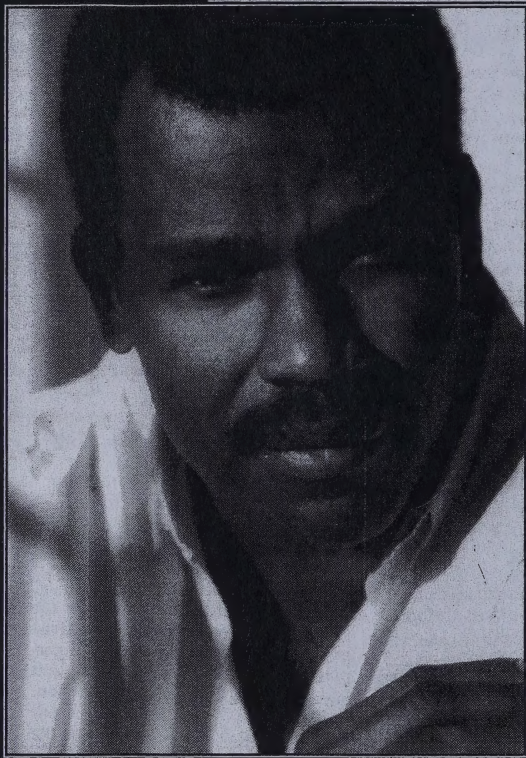
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BLK NEWS

COMPILED BY ERIC K. WASHINGTON, NEWS EDITOR

GLOW Adds New Chapters

JOHANNESBURG—GLOW, a predominantly black lesbian and gay activist organization started in 1989 now has grown to four chapters in Kwa-Thema, Tembisa, Soweto and Johannesburg Central.

The launching of GLOW has tended to belie the assumption that homosexuality in South Africa is merely a "white-male, middle-class problem." According to GLOW, most South African homosexuals aren't white, about half are female.

GLOW is a campaign organization, setting out to challenge conservative assumptions about lesbians and gays, changing them if it can, and fighting the oppression of lesbians and gay men.

—John Hubert

2,000 March in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Two thousand lesbians and gay men took to the streets Oct. 12 in the country's—and Africa's—second ever lesbian and gay pride parade. The marchers stepped off from the Great Hall at Witwatersrand University.

There were contingents from Cape Town, Durban, the Orange Free State and Pretoria—from Gazankulu, Rop and neighboring Swaziland, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Police behaved well—going so far as to provide a motorcycle escort. Riot squads were sprinkled along the route to protect marchers.

The marchers—40 percent black, 60 percent white—represented gay political groups, gay sports teams, AIDS care providers, the Johannesburg health department, unions, student political organizations, the African National Congress, and *Exit*, Africa's only gay newspaper.

The post-march party in the park featured organizational booths, food, beer, a puppet show, singing, dancing, "and a general re-affirmation of our identity," according to one lesbian.

Last year, 800 people turned out for Johannesburg's first pride parade. Both marches were organized by GLOW, the Soweto-based gay group founded by anti-apartheid and gay activist Tseko Simon Nkoli.

—Rex Wockner and Gerry Davidson

Lorde Named New York Poet

ALBANY, N.Y.—Audre Lorde has been selected to receive the New York State Walt Whitman Citation of Merit for poets. The New York State Writers Institute announced on Oct. 2 that Lorde will serve as official State Poet from 1991-1993. Governor Mario M. Cuomo awarded the prestigious citation at a special ceremony here on Nov. 13.

The poetry citation, along with the New York State Edith Wharton Citation of Merit for fiction writers was established in 1985 by the State Legislature under the aegis of the New



William Kennedy, Mario Cuomo, Audre Lorde, Patrick Swygert

York State Writers Institute. Established to "promote and encourage fiction/poetry within the state," the citations are presented to a New York State writer and poet upon the recommendation of an advisory panel of distinguished writers every other year. The fiction writer citation was awarded to Norman Mailer.

The advisory panel for the State Poet award consisted of Robert Creeley, who is the current State Poet, Molly Peacock, Charles Simic, and Tom Smith, associate director of the Writers Institute.

"I am honored to stand as poet for New York State—itsself a poem of complexity, contradictions, and wonder—and to accept this award named for one of my earliest beacons toward the real matter of poetry," said Lorde in a press statement.

In a September 1990 BLK interview, Lorde described herself as "a black lesbian, feminist, warrior, poet and mother doing my work."

Her work, as described by Robert Creeley in a press release, is "a poetry of consummate human dignity which speaks for all who are caught in the trammels of poverty or disenfranchisement, that sad word for the powerlessness of the forgotten. She insists on all the range of particularity of human feelings, of care for one another, of love despite our defenses."

—Eric K. Washington

Black AIDS Educators Meet

LOS ANGELES—The Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute was one of several kick-off events that brought together front line health care providers and educators from across California.

The workshops and training were presented by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Asso-

DAVID JENNINGS

ciation of Black and White Men Together. As part of San Francisco's Gay Men of Color Consortium, presenters also came from the Bay Area HIV Support and Education Services, and organizations representing Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino and the Native American communities.

Reggie Williams, executive director of NTFAP; Paul Davis of the Minority AIDS Project; Phill Wilson, City of Los

Angeles AIDS Services Coordinator; Dr. Wilbert Jordan, director of the AIDS institute at King Drew Medical Center; and more than two dozen other experts participated in the all-day workshops.

The institute was held the day before the Creating Change West conference was set to begin at the Sheraton Townhouse which evoked some complaints. Most out-of-town participants were not able to stay for the entire conference. More than just the registration fee was at issue, as most of the participants had learned of the conference only in the week or two preceding it. Airfare, housing, and duties at their respective agencies were listed as barriers to participation in the three days and nights of events around the conference.

—Mark Haile

BLK BRIEFS

NEW YORK: *Paris Is Burning* was voted the year's Best Documentary by the 25-member New York Film Critics' Circle.

PHILADELPHIA: Dwayne and Carlton Bennett, both 20, and Giovanni Reed, 16, were arrested in the robbery murder of Robert Charles Janke. Janke, 22, was a volunteer with Nite Watch, a neighborhood group formed to protect gay businesses. **MOBILE:** The Mobile Area Lesbian and Gay Assembly adopted a mission statement at its Nov. 18 meeting which read, in part, "to build a multi-cultural community where all, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation... may congregate to support one another..." **NASHVILLE:** The Cracker Barrel restaurant chain that has been under fire for its anti-gay hiring policies may incur the wrath of the African-American community for the "black mammy" dolls it carries in its adjacent gift shops.

BALTIMORE: The Black Gay Community Center of Baltimore has been awarded \$10,000 from the state for AIDS education. **ATLANTA:** A suspect identified only as Linsay has been arrested and charged with assault telling officers the victim was just a "fucking homo." **HARARE, Zimbabwe:** The manager of the Amenities Dept. said in Sept. that the city's four cemeteries are full and officials are considering requiring that persons who die of AIDS be cremated.

HOUSTON: Johnny Bryant Darrington III, 20, was charged in the shooting death of Philip W. Smith, 24, outside a Montrose bar. Police say Darrington said he shot the victim because he hates homosexuals. **MILWAUKEE:** Catherine Lacy is suing three Milwaukee police officers, charging that their racism contributed to the death of her 23-year-old son, Oliver. The victim's mother says that her son would be alive today if the officers had believed witnesses' complaints and arrested Jeffrey Dahmer rather than returning a naked, bleeding Laotian boy to Dahmer's care.

SAN DIEGO: Sistahparty held a workshop "Bridging the Gap: Celebrating Our Diversity" Nov. 23. **NEW YORK:** Among the productions featured at Lookout: Lesbian and Gay Television Festival were *Splash* by Thomas Harris, *She Don't Fade* by Cheryl Dunye, *Homosexuality: A Child's Point of View* by Jahanara and *Emergence* by Pratibha Parmar. The festival took place in New York Oct. 9 through 13. **MILWAUKEE:** The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee held a discussion "Racism II: An Exploration of Attitudes and Experiences" Nov. 21.

NEW YORK: Men of All Colors/New York sponsored a four-month, four-session series, "Our Sisters, Ourselves" about relationships between black lesbians and gay men. **NEW YORK:** *Among Good Christian Peoples*, a video by Catherine Saalfeld and Jacqueline Woodson was shown at the Center Sept. 27. *Peoples* includes the music of the Lavendar Light Black and People of All Colors Lesbian and Gay Gospel Choir...

Group Names '92 Officers

WASHINGTON—The D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men announced its leadership roster for 1992 following elections. Co-chairs of the membership organization representing black lesbians and gay men of the nation's capital are Kevin Taylor and Carlene Cheatam. Darren Buckner continues as business manager. Jim Byers wears two hats as secretary and membership committee chairman.

The political action committee is headed by Ernest Hopkins and Venus Thrash and the education committee is being led by Louise Gant and Gideon Ferebee. Sabrina Sojourner and Darren Buckner took charge of the finance committee while Stuart Adams and Jackie Walker preside over the newsletter committee.

John Wilson, chairman of the D.C. City Council delivered a personal message of congratulations at the installation ceremony for the new officers and took an opportunity to stump for his new legislation which would allow rights for domestic partners similar to those that married couples enjoy.

—Mark F. Johnson

Man Calls Cleveland 'Dad'

LOS ANGELES—Andre M. Cleveland, formerly Andre McIsaac, claims he is the adopted son of the late Rev. James Cleveland. The 34 year old record producer has disputed the James Cleveland Trust, which maintains the Cornerstone Baptist Church and the Gospel Music Workshop of America, since the death of the Rev. Cleveland in February. The estate is said to be worth \$6 million, of which Andre Cleveland claims half.

In documents creating the trust, which was formed only hours before Rev. Cleveland slipped irrevocably into a coma, Cleveland's daughter LaShone was left \$100,000, and Andre, referred to as a "friend and godson" was left \$10,000.

Andre Cleveland stated at his West Hollywood press conference that after a year of living together, it was "mutually agreed that I would become his common-law son, bearing his name."

Jean Ervin, mother of the late minister's daughter, said that there were any number of young men who also cohabited with Rev. Cleveland over the years.

According to widely repeated but unsubstantiated rumors, Rev. Cleveland was preceded in death by his last love by about a year.

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file suit, it could throw into jeopardy the future existence of Cornerstone Baptist Church, already considerably run down and weed ridden less than a year after its founder's death. Cleveland contends that resorting to a lawsuit would strictly be because of "the principle of the matter," but others have noted that the "interest" could be quite high as well.

—Mark Haile

Judge Quizzes Jurors

NEW YORK—Heated controversy broke out here over a rumor that a judge had decided to allow defense lawyers in a gay-bashing murder trial to ask prospective jurors their sexual orientation. One of the defense lawyers, Harold Harrison, was quoted in the *New York Post* as saying, "The judge agreed that we will be able to question each juror about their sexual preference."

On the following Monday, as lesbians and gays demonstrated outside the Kew Gardens courthouse, Justice Sherman was reported to have angrily denied agreeing to such a line of questioning and to have declared, "No juror will be asked if they are homosexual."

"I think that the defense lawyers are completely out of line in this case," said Sandra Lowe, a staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, in comments to BLK. Lowe asserted that such a line of questioning was impermissible and unconstitutional and she expressed her skepticism that the judge would allow it.

The case has been the cause of outrage in the lesbian and gay community since July 2, 1990, when 29-year old Julio Rivera was repeatedly beaten in the head with a hammer and wrench and stabbed in the back by three men who left him for dead. It took months, with constant community pressure spearheaded by the Anti-Violence Project, before the police finally classified the murder as a bias-related incident. Of the three accused, one man, Dennis Doyle, has pleaded guilty to manslaughter, and is expected to turn state's witness against the other two.



Singin' in the Rain, c. 1991

Matt Forman, executive director of New York's Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, agreed with Lowe and told BLK that he had confidence in the prosecutor's conduct of the case. But Forman added, "I don't have a lot of faith in any straight person's ability to understand the issue of anti-gay violence. This is not just a murder trial. The motive here is different. And I don't have a lot of faith in anyone's ability to make a jury understand that. We're crossing our fingers at this point."

—Eric K. Washington

Study Says Condoms Shunned

SAN FRANCISCO—A significant percentage of heterosexual African-Americans and Hispanics may be putting themselves at risk for AIDS because they don't like or believe in condoms, a University of California San Francisco study has found.

UCSF researchers interviewed nearly 1,800 single non-gay women and men, 20 to 44 years of age, who live in "high risk" neighborhoods of San Francisco. Blacks and Latinos, more than whites, felt that condoms are uncomfortable and immoral, according to the study.

The findings are troubling, because among heterosexuals in the United States, Latinos and African-Americans continue to be disproportionately at risk for AIDS.

Politician Slams Gays, Blacks

PALOS TOWNSHIP, ILL.—Forty percent of U.S. Congressmen may be homosexuals, says Donald Chapman, an elected trustee in Palos Township in southwest suburban Chicago. A township is a governmental entity that provides city-type services to unincorporated county areas.

"If it is true that 40 percent of Congress is homosexual, the country is not long for this world," Chapman wrote in his regular column in the *Regional News*, a 3,000-circulation local newspaper. "It does, however, explain why Congress is so intimidated by the homosexual lobby. It is the most powerful lobby in Washington today."

Chapman also said blacks are not as smart as whites—"it's not even a contest. Any aptitude tests will show whites far ahead. It's no secret that homosexuals back the black movement 100 percent. What about the rest of Congress, the ones that are straight? They are 100 percent behind any legislation that favors blacks, but for a different reason: They know how to count votes."

On Oct. 9, six days after the column appeared, Chapman was fired by the *Regional News*, after six years with the paper. His fellow trustees also called for his resignation. Chapman, however, said he would neither resign nor recant his statements. The other trustees are "Bonzos," he added.

—Rex Wockner

Woman Starts New Business

DALLAS—Black entrepreneur Leslie Despenza-Hale has formed a company to offer erotica for women loving women. Despenza-Hale says Androgyny, Inc. will alleviate a "serious lack of erotica for women in our society. But even more so, there is a total lack of erotica for those of us who love women." Her aim is to achieve levels of sophistication in erotica attained in the gay male commu-

nity.

"Our goal is to portray the beauty of a woman's body and also women loving women as only we can know it—as a beautifully erotic experience that involves all of the human sexes—not just sordid sexual stimuli for future sex acts, as it is portrayed in the heterosexual male magazines," said Despenza-Hale.

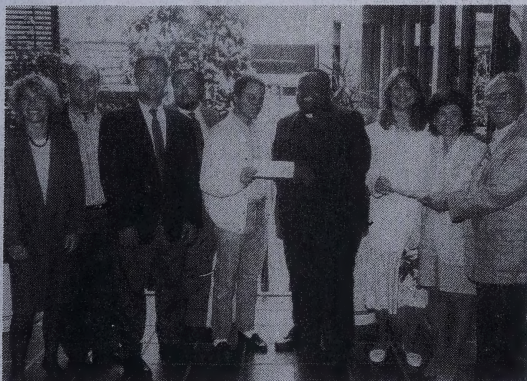
Future projects for Androgyny include a magazine, videos, photo sets, calendars, greeting cards, novels and sexual seminars.

One division of Androgyny will be Bisexual Females for Fun (BIFF), which will host monthly meetings, parties, cruises and trips. "We began an organization to try to take us away from our problems, even if it is only a temporary solution," explained Despenza-Hale. "Life is so short and sometimes you have to take a break from the problems of the universe to smell the roses and enjoy life."

—Mark Haile

AIDS Groups Get Sire Money

LOS ANGELES—Representatives of the National Minority AIDS Council and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation each received \$5,000 from Sire Records' 900 Hot Line, established last year to assist national and local AIDS



Bishop Carl Bean (sixth from left) accepts check from Warner Bros. Records President Lenny Waronker.

organizations. The ceremony was held at Warner Bros. Records Burbank headquarters.

The Sire Records 900-Hot Line allows callers who dial 1-900-990-SIRE to preview and rate new Sire releases, hear the latest release dates and tour information, listen to exclusive interviews with Sire recording artists and participate in contests to win various collectors' items, CDs and concert tickets. All monies earned from the Hot Line go directly to selected AIDS charities.

Jazzers Hold AIDS Benefit

NEW YORK—The Village Gate, long one of the City's most renowned jazz establishments, was host to Jazz Against AIDS on Oct. 7, a benefit performance for the Minority Task Force on AIDS and the National AIDS

Project of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The performance raised over \$7,500 to be shared equally between the two organizations.

"It was a wonderful success," Jacqueline Allen, an organizer of the evening, told BLK. "We hope to make it an annual event."

While AIDS fundraisers have become increasingly common from all sectors of the entertainment industry, Jazz Against AIDS is believed by many to be the first direct response to the health crisis by the jazz community.

Admission prices to the event were appropriately jazzy, too. General admission tickets cost \$35 and select seats for Sponsors or Benefactors and their guests were available at \$150 and \$250. All contributions were tax deductible.

—Eric K. Washington

Blacks Target of Gay Bashers

CHICAGO—At least four black gay men have been victims of or have witnessed gay bashings, the *Windy City Times* has reported. The men did not want their names published for fear of harassment.

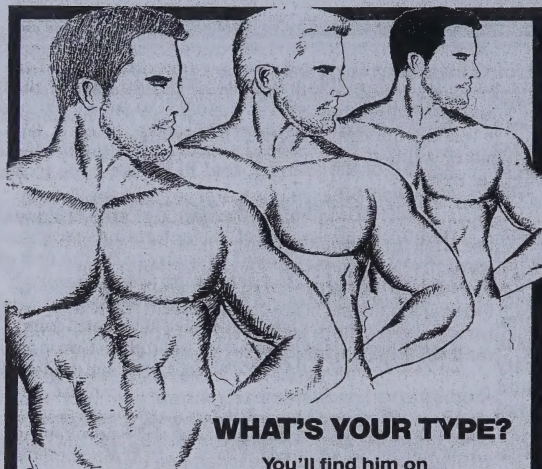
The Jeffery Pub, a popular black gay bar on Chicago's south side, has about the third highest concentration of black gay men in the city. The area in which it is located, a middle-class black neighborhood, is not as heavily gay as the strips of white gay bars on the north side area known as New Town. Attacks have been occurring over the past three months.

On Sept. 1, "John," said he was "slammed in the neck with a fist or forearm," causing a bleeding cut. He didn't see who hit him, but he says he saw about 20 teenage boys who had been standing nearby start to run down Jeffery Boulevard.

"Rick," a 45-year-old black gay man, has been going to the Jeffery Pub since the early '70s. He admitted that this past summer anti-gay violence became more pervasive, though he has heard stories of bashings in the past.



"She's always up at the crack of Dawn."



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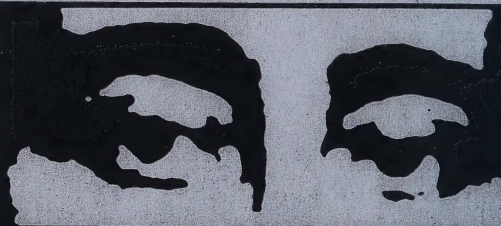
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yields returns for a lifetime.

A heterosexual woman who lives across the street from the bar stated that "almost every weekend" she has seen black gay men beaten for months. "They wait for guys to get out of their cars and then they jump them," she said.

"Rick" said that in mid-July one evening two men looked as though "they'd been beaten, jumped on and sprayed with mace" after going out of the bar and running back in with tattered clothes. He also stated that someone threw a rock through the door window.

The Jackson Park golf course, located about a mile from the Jeffery Pub, is a cruising area at night for black gay men.

"Ron" said on Aug. 9 he was in his car with someone when a group of teenagers smashed the back window with a golf club while surrounding the car. A year ago he was beaten and robbed of a gold chain while in the park. He informed police officers of both attacks and they were unsympathetic, saying that their attitude was, "Well, what are you doing in the park this late?"

"Ron" said that homophobic police officers do nothing about the gay bashings but do arrest people on public sex charges.

—Antonio Sharp

Lowe Takes N.Y. State Post

NEWYORK—Sandra J. Lowe, formerly a staff attorney at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has become the director of the Governor's Office of Gay and Lesbian Concerns for New York State.

Lowe began as Mario Cuomo's liaison to the gay and lesbian community on Dec. 2, after three years at Lambda working on a range of issues including civil rights, domestic partnership, anti-gay and lesbian violence, and employment discrimination, among others.

One of the key national players in the effort to overturn the military's ban on gay and lesbian service members, Lowe gave direction and energy to Lambda's contribution to that effort. "Lambda was exhilarating, exciting," Lowe stated. "It put me on the cutting edge of the human rights movement, a rare and wonderful vantage point."

"Because of her incredible background, experience, and wisdom, Sandy was a very powerful and important person to the Lambda staff and organizational consciousness," noted Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's executive director. "Even though we will miss her terribly, we all take great pride in her decision to take her myriad skills to state government."

As director of the Governor's Office of Gay and Lesbian



Sandra Lowe

Concerns, Lowe told BLK her personal mission for the office would be to achieve "visibility, credibility, passage of the civil rights amendment and domestic partnership."

Lowe dates her career as an activist from the early '60s when she joined the Congress of Racial Equality. She graduated from CUNY Law School in Queens, N.Y. in 1987 and worked as a criminal defense attorney with the Defender Association of Philadelphia before joining Lambda. Lowe is currently a board member of Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Johnson Signs for 3 Books

EW YORK—Basketball great Earvin "Magic" Johnson has reached agreement with Random House on a multiple book contract. Harold Evans, president and publisher of the Random House Trade Group, announced in December. Johnson will write an autobiography covering his basketball career and personal life culminating with the announcement that he has contracted the HIV virus.

In addition, Johnson, working with former Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, will prepare a guide to responsible sexual behavior. All profits from this guide, which is intended to have the widest possible distribution, will go to the newly formed Magic Johnson Foundation to support education, care, and research efforts.

The contents of the third book will be determined at a future time. Evans said, "In a short time, by his courage and vision in the face of his adversity, Magic Johnson has aroused as much admiration among as wide an audience as he has in a lifetime of athletic brilliance."

Johnson was represented in his discussion with Random House by Michael Ovitz, chairman of the Creative Artists Agency, on a *pro bono* basis.

Johnson's autobiography is scheduled for publication by the Fall of 1992. The book will be edited by Peter Osnos, vice president and associate publisher of Random House.

The guide to responsible sexual behavior will be a paperback published by Times Books, a Random House imprint, and it will be available in the spring of 1992. Johnson, a three-time Most Valuable Player award winner of the National Basketball Association, led the Los Angeles Lakers to five world championships and is acknowledged as one of the great sports heroes of the age. He has now won applause, on giving up the game, by devoting his time to spreading the message of responsible sexual behavior and raising funds to assist people with AIDS.

AFA Boycott Targets Listed

UPELO, Miss.—The American Family Association, a right-wing, anti-gay fundamentalist organization, has targeted a number of companies, products and television shows for boycott.

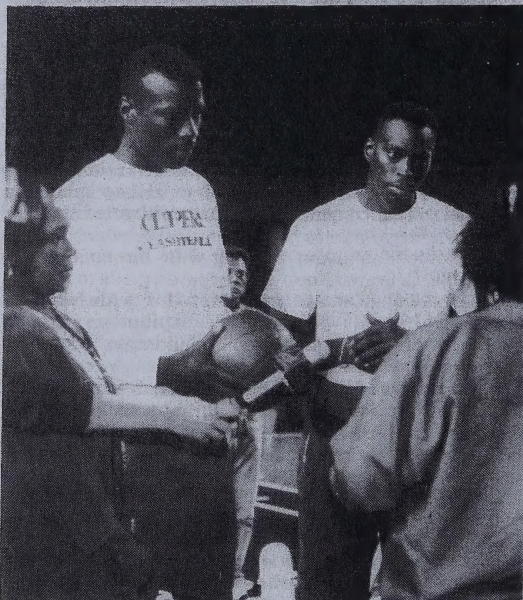
They include Arm and Hammer, General Motors, Alpo, Burger King, Green Giant, Hägen Dazs, Pearl Vision, Ben Gay, Unisom, Visine, Phillip Morris, makers of Birds Eye, Breyers, Brim, Cool Whip, General Foods, Jell-O, Kraft, Lowenbrau, Miller, Marlboro, Oscar Meyer, Parkay, Sanka, Sealtest, Glade, Johnson Wax, Off, Raid, Aspercreme, Slim-fast and Toyota.

Television shows include *Doctor Doctor*, *Gabriel's Fire*, *Golden Girls*, *L.A. Law*, *The Hogan Family*, *Life Stories*, *Over*

My Dead Body, The Simpsons, Thanksgiving Day, and thirty-something.
—Mark Haile

L.A. Clippers Enter AIDS Fight

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Clippers have stepped into the AIDS arena by shooting a public service announcement for the Shanti Foundation, becoming the first NBA team to take action against HIV



Loy Vaught and Tony Brown

since Magic Johnson's announcement that he was HIV positive.

The 30-second commercial, taped at the Los Angeles Sports Arena, features Clippers Loy Vaught and Tony Brown. The spot addresses Shanti's safe sex education and HIV counseling services, and urges people to get involved in the fight, telling them that the "ball's in your court."

The commercial is currently being distributed to stations throughout southern California.

Founded in 1983, the Los Angeles Shanti Foundation provides emotional support and education to those affected by life-threatening illness, including HIV/AIDS. Shanti services includes support and education groups, monthly information seminars and one-on-one peer support volunteers.

D.C. Black Pride Set for May

WASHINGTON—History will repeat itself next May when black lesbians and gay men in D.C. hold their second Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day as planned. The event, scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend, will pick up where last year's event left off, according to

organizer Carlene Cheatam.

Despite the oppressive heat, hundreds of black lesbians and gay men turned out last year. After the success of the event, groups in other cities announced plans to hold their own local versions.

Proceeds from the event, as last year, will go to organizations that are active in the fight against the spread of AIDS and those that care for AIDS patients.

Next year, organizers plan to extend the festivity to the entire weekend, which culminates with Pride Day, May 24. The weekend, traditionally very popular as black lesbians and gay men from around the nation converge on the District, will kick off with a social May 23 and be followed by a concert.

Events to raise funds for the second annual celebration of Black Lesbian and Gay Pride are planned throughout February, Black History Month.

—Mark F. Johnson

Black Groups at Marathon

NEW YORK—Sensible shoes on a Saturday night? To fight AIDS?

Nona Hendryx, Monie Love, Salt-N-Pepa and 2 in a Room were among the headliners at the second annual AIDS Dance-a-thon which drew thousands on Nov. 30. The five-hour fundraising extravaganza, which took place at the Javits Convention Center in midtown Manhattan and housed 100,000 square feet of dance floor, elaborate lighting and donated refreshments, benefitted the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the world's oldest and largest AIDS organization.

The Dance-a-thon, which had been promoted by pop star Madonna, was part of a GMHC project called 10 Days/10 Deeds which began Nov. 22 and led up to Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. The campaign's highlight was the city-wide distribution on Nov. 26 of 100,000 condoms and safer-sex flyers during the morning and evening subway rush hours. The Dance-a-thon attracted 7,300 people who raised \$1.6 million for GMHC.

The event was also the New York City site for "Red Hot + Dance," a dance party held simultaneously in numerous cities worldwide on the eve of World AIDS Day. A TV special and album are planned for release next Spring that will feature the parties and performers as well as promote HIV/AIDS awareness and education.

—Eric K. Washington

New Orgs Spring in Rochester

ROCHESTER—Two new gay organizations for people of color have sprung up like a late harvest this fall in upstate New York. RLOCO (for Rochester Lesbians of Color Organization) and Brothers United both formed independently of each other in Rochester during the final months of last year.

"Our time has come to be seen, heard and known," said Diane Conway who set RLOCO in motion last August by attracting interested lesbians with flyers and advertisements in Empty Closets, the local gay journal. "We've decided to start RLOCO out as a social group first to gather people, and then later we'll look into forming its organization."

Gary English, founder of Brothers United, sees his group as "basically a social group," too, citing that black gays in Rochester are alienated in that town's social scene. "The black gay community is basically underground," English

told BLK.

Daryl Kittelberger, who is president of the group, agreed, asserting that many black gays prefer to drive the extra miles to Buffalo for the nightlife lacking in Rochester. But Kittelberger said, "I see Brothers United as primarily a support group, as well as social.

On Dec. 14, the two groups got together. Brothers United sponsored its first social event at the Gay Alliance, a community space in Rochester. *Tongues Untied*, the award-winning documentary film by Marlon Riggs, was shown at the event, which was followed by a party.

"People came from Ithaca, Syracuse and Buffalo," said Charles Stevens, the group's treasurer, who was happy to note that Brothers United signed up 48 new members that evening. "The oldest member is 57. The youngest is 20," Stevens said. He added, "I think it went over very well."

Conway, who gave a solidarity message to Brothers United, agreed, noting that, while it did not achieve as numerous a roster as did the men's group, RLOCO also benefited from a surge in membership as a result of the event.

The founders of both groups appeared enthusiastic about the prospect of black lesbians and gays finally coming together, not only as a visible contingency of Rochester's mainstream gay community, but as an integral component of the general black community. Both English and Kittelberger hope Brothers United will address AIDS. "There's a lack of knowledge about HIV," said Kittelberger of the general black community in Rochester. "We have people who still believe you can get it from kissing."

—Eric K. Washington

AIDS Money to Black Center

LAS VEGAS—Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) raised more than \$10,000 at a benefit at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas to go, in part, toward developing the African-American Resources Center in West Las Vegas. The project will be a satellite of AFAN operated in conjunction with the Nevada Treatment Center.

Additional funds for the development of the prototype project will come from the AFAN thrift store opening this fall, and the United Way, which has provided \$86,000 in the first eight months of 1991.

Conference Changes Site

LOS ANGELES—The fifth National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Institutes originally scheduled for the Clarion Hotel in Oakland have been moved to the Oakland Airport Hilton, 1 Hegenberger Rd. adjacent to the Oakland Airport. The annual event takes place Feb. 13-17.

Linda Villarosa, a senior editor at *Essence*, and her mother Clara Villarosa, owner of Hue-man Bookstore in Denver will be featured speakers. Other featured speakers include Sherry Harris, Dr. Marjorie Hill, Dr. Billy E. Jones, Sandra Lowe and Dr. Tim Moragne.

The weekend will include an AIDS Institute on Thursday, and four concurrent Institutes on Friday, Women's Issues, Culture, Spirituality and Leadership. Over 50 workshops and caucuses will be presented Saturday and Sunday. Events end on Monday with the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's annual meeting.

Social and cultural events include a party at Whispers Thursday evening; a women's reading and party Friday evening; readings from Assoto Saint's *The Road Before Us*, an awards banquet and dance Saturday evening; and a co-gender reading and bus tour of San Francisco Sunday evening.

The Conference and Institutes are a joint venture of the Leadership Forum which is sponsor and Unity Bay Area which is host. Phone number for the event is 213-666-5495.

Skinheads Indicted in Attack

BOSTON—Racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic literature was found on one of three men arrested for attacking two gay men in Boston.

At least two of the men arrested by police, who witnessed the attack, were skinheads. The white supremacist material led to an indictment for civil rights violations causing bodily injury, with a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison if convicted. Donald Pilkington, Jr., 19, Kenneth E. Anderson, 18, and Matthew R. Caruso, 18, were named in the indictment.

Martina Sees Double Standard

NEW YORK—"If I had the AIDS virus, would people be understanding?" said tennis star Martina Navratilova speaking of Magic Johnson's recent disclosure that he was HIV positive. "No, because they'd say I'm gay I had it coming. That's why they're accepting it with [Johnson] because supposedly he got it through heterosexual contact.

Navratilova spoke Nov. 20 after practice for the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships at Madison Square Garden. Her comments were printed in the *New York Post*.

"There have been other athletes who died from AIDS and they were pushed aside because they either got it from



"Just a minute, Doctor. That 'vaginal thermometer' looks like a finger to me."

drugs or they were gay," Navratilova told the *Post*. "That's pretty scary. If it had happened to a heterosexual woman who had been with 100 or 200 men, they'd call her a whore and a slut and the corporations would drop her like a lead balloon. And she'd never get another job in her life.

"It's a very big-time double standard, and it's frightening because it's happening. When it comes to promiscuity, it's very much accepted [among men]. And women are banished."

Dinkins Relents on Needles

NEW YORK—After clearly expressing his opposition to government sponsored needle exchange programs last year, Mayor David Dinkins has had a drastic change of heart. In a reversal of city policy, New York City will establish government endorsed needle exchange programs.

Following Mayor Dinkins's review of official research reports from Yale University and a New Haven-based needle exchange program, which documented decreased AIDS cases after the implementation of such programs, the Mayor conferred with Acting Health Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg who similarly recommended that a needle exchange program be instituted in New York City.

According to the *New York Times*, Mayor Dinkins has called the city's recent support of this somewhat controversial program, "a more aggressive approach by his administration to fight both AIDS and drug abuse."

Prior to the city's drastic turn in policy, ACT-UP had established needle exchange sites in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan where intravenous drug users were counseled on the twin dangers of using drugs and sharing needles.

Although an official starting date has not been set, the Dinkins Administration has expressed support of programs

—similar to those of ACT-UP—which will provide intravenous drug users with AIDS education and drug counseling. It is a move that both AIDS activists and city officials alike have applauded as a positive and effective measure in slowing the spread of AIDS.

Mayor Dinkins is looking to private organizations to fund the pilot programs which will be run by community groups throughout the city. The American Foundation for AIDS Research has announced that it will donate \$300,000 for four pilot programs, which will include one New York City locale. In addition to soliciting financial assistance from private foundations, the city will select community groups which will be given State Department of Health Waivers enabling them to exchange needles when necessary.

Other cities which have already implemented government sponsored needle exchange programs include: Honolulu, Hawaii; Portland, Oregon; Seattle and Tacoma, Washington.

—LaRose Parris

BMX Holds Cultural Gathering

OAKLAND—The Black Men's Xchange (BMX) and the African-American AIDS Support Services and Survival Institute (AMASSI) have announced plans for their 1992 National Cultural Gathering and Retreat. The event will take place Feb. 14-16, the same weekend as the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference.

BMX, which was founded in Los Angeles by Cleo Manago and the late Ron Grayson in 1989 for "black men who love men," sports chapters in seven cities across the country. The group, headquartered in Oakland, Calif., now also includes activities open to women and non-people of color.

HIV/AIDS will be the focus on Friday when AMASSI considers outreach strategies, treatment and counseling services that have been effective in black male, women's and children's communities. Education and prevention programs and activities in African-American communities will also be considered. The events, collectively titled "African-Americans Living in the Age of AIDS: a Celebration of Life," will take place at Providence Auditorium, 3100 Summit St.

On Saturday at Humanist Hall, BMX will host a series of events focusing on community, Afrocentrism and empowerment. The Hall is located at 320 27th St. A party and fundraiser, "Let Us Admire Your African Attire," is scheduled for Saturday night at Bella Napoli, 2330 Telegraph. The conference ends on Sunday with a retreat for existing and prospective BMX chapters.

BMX can be reached at 800-821-5143.

Johnson to Begin Taking AZT

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (UPI)—Retired Los Angeles Laker Magic Johnson will begin taking AZT to combat the HIV virus upon his return from vacation according to his agent, Lon Rosen. AZT, one of two drugs approved by the federal government for use in AIDS treatment, has come under fire from some AIDS researchers who doubt its effectiveness.

"He will begin treatment when he returns," Rosen said at the Forum recently. "It's not critical, or else he wouldn't be on vacation, but he wants to start it. The reason he's not starting it now is because he needs to be monitored while he's taking it."



"Federal Bureau of Sensitivity, sir. It seems that last night you neglected to comment on the bearnaise sauce William spent three hours preparing yesterday. You have the right to remain silent..."

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Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include. Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.

- GWEN ALEXANDER**, died Aug. 24 of complications related to AIDS as reported in the *Washington Blade*. After graduating high school, Alexander studied cosmetics in New York and Maryland. Her expertise with cosmetics enabled her to work as a makeup artist and model. She was a well-known entertainer, pageant winner and recipient of many awards including the Best Professional Entertainer Award from the Academy Awards of Washington. She was 36.
- JESSE 'JAY' BLACK, JR.**, died July 21, of complications associated with AIDS as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Black, born June 2, 1945 in Dayton, Ohio lived in New York for a time and settled finally in San Francisco in 1974. In 1976, Black enlisted in the U.S. Navy and spent much of his tour in Guam. After active duty he stayed on with the Naval Reserve. From 1980 until his death he was employed by Pacific Bell. Black was 46.
- RICHARD A. BOYDSTON**, a Rochester resident, died of complications associated with AIDS. Boydston appeared internationally as a dancer and received many honors. He is survived by his mother and friends from California to New York. He was 24.
- TIM DOLLSON**, died of AIDS related complications in June as reported in the *Mom, Guess What!* newspaper. Dollson was a resident of Sacramento from birth, although he lived briefly in Minnesota and San Francisco. He was employed by various organizations, the last being the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn. Dollson, known to be an excellent dancer, was 31.
- MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER DUNHAM**, born Jan. 14, 1960, died Aug. 19 of cancer. Dunham served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was 31.
- GORDON TYRONE DUNN**, died Aug. 15 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. Born during 1955 in North Carolina, Dunn attended school and then enlisted in the Marine Corps. In 1981, receiving an honorable discharge, Dunn moved to Washington where he worked for MCI. Active in the community, he volunteered with the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club and D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon's campaign office. He was 36.
- CLEVELAND GATES, JR.**, died Aug. 30 of AIDS complications. Born Mar. 6, 1958 in Chicago, Gates completed high school and worked as a general contractor. A segment of his work was featured in the *Chicago Tribune*. Moving to Florida for a few years, Gates worked as a manager for the Club Bath chain. Returning to Chicago, he was an active volunteer with several organizations and was the television spokesperson for Bonaventure House. Gates was also active in the '80s with BWMT as reported in the *Chicago Gay Times*. He was 35.
- TONY HUGHES**, a BWMT-Milwaukee member, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.
- ERNEST A. JOHNSON**, born Aug. 9, 1954 in Washington, D.C. died Sept. 14, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. After receiving his B.S. in 1976 from Ferris State University, Johnson worked for General Motors corporate headquarters. In 1980, he moved to San Francisco and was employed by Pacific Bell, he also worked as a loan officer. He is survived by his lover of eight years, Brian Dezzani.
- DWIGHT E. JORDAN**, drowned in Arizona while innertubing in a river on Sept. 6 as reported by *In Step*. Known for entertaining, Jordan toured the U.S. and Canada. He was 36.
- JOHN W. KEMP**, died Aug. 1 as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*. He was 44. Born Aug. 4, 1943 and raised in Detroit, Kemp moved to San

Francisco in 1981. An MBA graduate of Harvard, he worked as chief financial officer for North Coast Industries and was president of OMCOA among his varied positions. During the '60s Kemp was a member of the Capitols and sang with them for sometime.

- HENRY LOVETT**, born Oct. 30, 1958, died Sept. 23 of AIDS related complications as reported in *Metroline*. Born in Georgia, Lovett moved to Conn. where he lived and worked until his death. Employed in the food service industry, he worked for T.G.I. Friday's for 11 years, as well as Mr. Steak and the Great American Cafe. He was 32.
- MARTIAL-RIO**, died Nov. 15 of AIDS complications. A Los Angeles resident for over 20 years, he was a hair stylist for 11 years with such clients as Natalie Cole and Diahann Carroll before he established a public relations business. A board member of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Martial-Rio was the PWA coordinator for two of the annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conferences and volunteered for the Minority AIDS Project. He is survived by his lover, Bill Weinberg, and uncle, Leonard Simon.
- KENNETH A. MARTIN**, died July 29 of complications associated with AIDS. Born June 1, 1962 in Chicago, Martin was educated at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and went on to receive his B.A. from Illinois State University as well as his teaching certificate in Spanish. Teaching high school from 1985-89, Martin left and accepted a position at Test Positive Awareness. From 1989 until his death, Martin was executive director of TPA, an outreach worker for BE-HIV and an active client of AAHP as reported in *Gay Chicago*. He was 29.
- ERNEST MILLER**, a 24-year-old member of BWMT-Milwaukee, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.
- JEFFREY PATRICK**, 39, died Aug. 9 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. In 1982, Patrick received his B.A. from the University of D.C. and began work as an accountant at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Patrick was a member of the theater group, Encore, and appeared in many productions. He produced and directed *Feeling Good All Over*. Patrick founded COCON a network of friends across the country. Through the county recreation department he instructed modern dance classes for children.
- FREEMAN POLLARD**, died July 31 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade*. A native of Alabama, Pollard graduated from Tuskegee University in 1963 and from New York University in 1967. Moving to D.C. in 1971, he worked for the National Urban League. From 1978-82 he lived and worked in Nairobi, Kenya for Planned Parenthood. When he returned to the U.S., Pollard worked as a consultant until his retirement last year. He was a collector of African art and a lover of baroque music. He was 49.
- KELSEY PULLIAM**, a native of Virginia died July 31 as reported in the *Washington Blade* of AIDS associated complications. With a bachelor of art's degree and a bachelor of science degree he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Moving to D.C. in 1978 he worked as a payroll coordinator for two government agencies while pursuing a second master's degree in business administration. As a bodybuilder Pulliam won many contests. He was 39.
- RAYMOND PUGH**, a soloist and choir director at Rev. T. L. Barrett's Church of Chicago died last year. He worked for more than 14 years as a customer service representative for a telephone communication company as reported in *Gay Chicago* magazine. Pugh had a love for designer clothes and furniture.
- RAFAEL ROMAN**, born Oct. 24, 1946, died Nov. 4, of AIDS related complications. He was 45. Roman was a founding board member of Community Health Project of New York where he worked as a volunteer for ten years. He is survived by his lifemate, Michael Dupre.
- SHANE**, died July 3 of AIDS related complications as reported in *Chiron Rising*. A 47-year-old New Yorker, he was an author and wrote many pieces of published fiction.
- EDWARD SMITH**, a BWMT-Milwaukee member was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.
- CURTIS STRAUGHTER**, a BWMT-Milwaukee member, was a victim of the Jeffrey Dahmer slayings.

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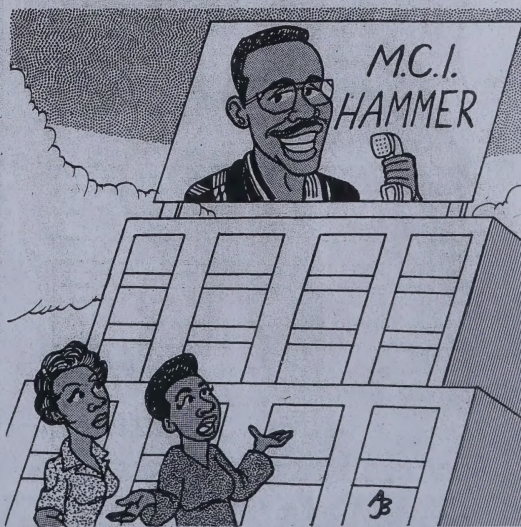
BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

Basgo's was the unofficial headquarters of Black and *Brown Men Together* during L.A.'s **Sunset Junction Street Fair**. We saw one of our favorite future husbands, **Bill Meredith**, roaming the fair side-by-side with gonna-be mayor **Mike Woo** who carefully shoe-horned his waxwork of a wife into every photo taken of him, lest anyone suspect Mike of pitching woo at one of the boys in that seething throng of same-sex strollers. Gay Chorus baritone **John Logan** was also there, just back from a singing tour through Europe where, he says, the natives wore him *out* beseeching private performances of John's, er, "rhythm-and-moves"... Struttin' his bulgin' stuff all over the nation these days is "**D'Cannon**", the Paul Bunyan of Gay Blackdom, aka Mr. International Leather, who tells anybody he catches whining about racism that he's never experienced discrimination in the gay leather scene. Well, we guess *not* with those pecs and that whip!... Guess what other leatherqueen decided to crash a meeting of L.A.'s **Arab Gays**, only to discover that other brothers also showed up in hopes of being dragged off to Araby by a desert sheik? Turns out that there were enough Valentino look-alikes down for adding a Queen of Sheba to their harems so no catfights ensued. Meeeeeow!... What's old and white and goes down the minute the sun sets? "Camp Mae West" is really just the name of the retreat L.A.'s **BWMTers**

escape to every summer near Lake Arrowhead. We hear they do all sorts of campy things like ride (horses), get high (mountain climbing) and eat (wienies and buns). Then there are the *indoor* activities designed to break down, uh, interracial barriers. *Lawd*, how them walls come tumblin' down... Speakin' of BWMT, we hear it has all but ceased to exist as a national organization since its last convention. Oh, it's still got chapters everywhere, but the Nat'l Assn's statement of purpose has been changed to read, "NABWMT is a gay, multiracial, multicultural organization" instead of "interracial organization." Victory tastes sweet when it's been a long time coming and the **MACT/Nyers** have been nagging the national organization for years to shift focus from being a safe space for blacks and whites to date and mate to becoming a gay Third World-oriented coalition. They'd switch the biracial name to a multiethnic one if they could without forfeiting their late founder's \$300,000 legacy... A phoenix did arise from the convention's pyre: BWMT/Philly founder **Jerry (the Red) Mallon** released the updated *Anti-racism Manual-an Action Guide* just months before his death. He said he'd do it and he delivered on his word as always. Sweet sleep, Jerry...Ditto our beloved friends **Craig Har-rls** and **Ken Marshall**, both warriors for the cause...Avowed—but not verified—heterosexual

Keith Antar Mason and **the Ms. Vaginal Creme Davis** performed together at a Beyond Baroque Benefit in September. Vadge did Club Lingerie, more familiar turf, in August...Get your carnival drag off the rack, girlfriends, 'cuz Rio de Janeiro has joined Bahia in outlawing discrimination against homosex at last! Of course we hear that the closet is stuffed too full for most gays and lesbians to sashay out despite the new law. Well we'll just have to caravan on down there and show'em how to take advantage of their new freedom. Oooh, We just *adore* rummaging through other people's closets! But careful, police in Rio may still arrest you for "indecent contact," while transvestites have to carry special ID cards (Wait, does that mean those buffed Brazil-

ian cops are easily deceived? Honey, we're on our way!)...**Pomo Afro Homos** (whose act is *almost* as *avant garde* as their name and who dish dirt nearly as well as *yours truly*) hit New York at Dance Theater Workshop's Bessie Schonberg Theater Oct. 3-13...Our favorite cable program last summer was watching AB 101 pass in Sacramento on Cal-Span's coverage of California democracy in action. It's more entertaining than most of what's on the telly (especially **Miss Willie** in her *big chair* bangin' her gavel and tellin' all those Republicans to behave or be 'buked. The Speaker sho' do look like he's having a good time up there). Of course, **Petey the Teenie Weenie** was smart enuf not to have the cameras rolling when he



"Looks like rap has gone mainstream."

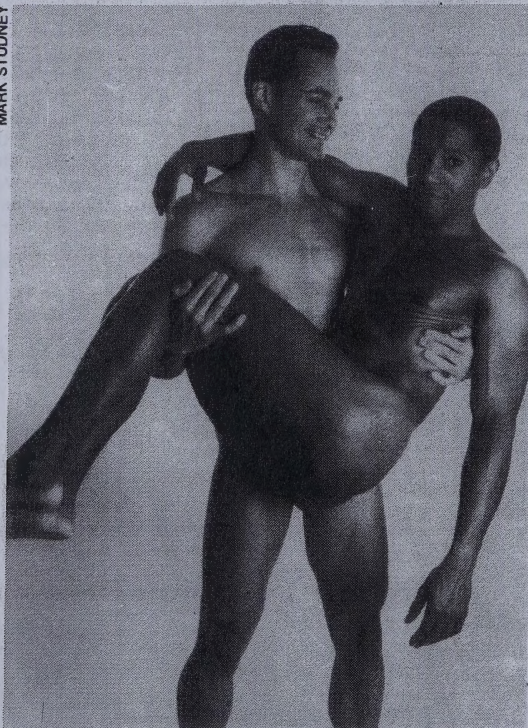
vetoed AB101! The Gov of the Golden (Shower) State sez he was busy all day on Oct. 11 when the demos came to town, and that he didn't hear a peep out of the 7,000 demonstrators. Yeah, right. L.A. activists **Debra Johnson**, **Bill Meredith** and **Warren Sims** were spotted in the crowd, and we know they know how to be heard. **Phill Wilson** and **Charles Stewart's** bosses sent them up for the Black Caucus hearings going on inside the Capitol but they escaped and joined the yelling crowd outside...It's getting easier to keep our resolve not to break our tiresome diet, what with **Taco Bell**, **Domino's**, **Kentucky Fried Chicken** and now **Pizza Hut**, all accused of

firing HIV positive employees. If you're trying to keep track, **Wendy's** has apologized to the gay community, and **Burger King** is now not only gay supportive, but *they* are being made the target of a boycott by the far right, so when you have to cheat and eat, do be politically correct about it. And just forget about the **Cracker Barrel** for a while, unless, of course, you'd like to drop in for a nice, long, leisurely glass of ice water, say, for an hour or so, with hmmm, say 100 of your closest friends. Sounds like a '60s sit-in, you say? Don't worry, the folks at the MLK Center in 'lanta have trained monitors to make sure the cops don't think it's the '60s, too...Poetry Festival: Seven days of les-

bian and gay readings during the third annual Los Angeles Poetry Festival included an evening of African-American *griots* (poets) Oct. 23 at Jewel's Catch One. Those reading from their works included **Adrienne Amoke**, **Harry Gibson**, **Mark Halle**, **Precious Tamu** and **Jerome Woods**... Difficult to believe that **R. Couri Hay's** column on how to exploit and take advantage of disenfranchised youth received nary a letter to the *Advocate*, but with the fuss over the muzz of outing the Pentagon's **Pete Williams**, sheesh, we guess they didn't have space to print letters on anything else. The only mention of the rather tasteless and inherently racist column—part two of which mysteriously never ran—came from equally tasteless and inherently racist **Michael Musto** (the "queer" columnist for the *Village Voice*, with whom we'd *never* engage in a drinking match). Musto found fault that the "ultra-correct" Hetrick-Martin Institute had turned down a premiere of *The Black Lizard*, an early '60s camp film of Yukio Mishima from Japan. Sniped Musto, "Maybe if it had been called *Lizard of Color?*" Is Michael sneaking up to Harlem to "get some" after dissing people of color (especially after cocktails, and before bragging about straight men)...**BWMT/Milwaukee, Club Muse** and **Lesblans of Color** pooled talents for a picnic Aug. 18, at the Dineen Park Pavilion. The picnic was a needed diversion in the wake of a long, tragic summer for Milwaukee's gay men of color...The new TV season brought more black faces to the tube. And even **Star Trek** is going to beam in some gay folk from up in outer space somewhere. But black lesbians

and gays? Prime time can still only stand our stuff when it's ridiculed in comedy—not, mind you, that we don't love our sisters **Antolne** and **Blaine** dearly for their supreme self-regard! And you wonder why we turn off the TV and read, (or go dancing when our culture-diva friends aren't looking)...At the second annual Open and Out Festival in L.A., **Colette Jackson** presented a two-part one woman show, *Visions of a Mixed Child*, on the experience of being a multi-racial black, and *Coming Out in the Bible*, a retelling of stories of the Bible using black English that reveals gay affirmative content... **Lawrence Petty**, **Cleo Manago** and **David Bruce** celebrated their birthday Sept. 21 in a combined fête attended by 45 people. Among the luminaries in attendance were **Stanley Bennett Clay** and **Devre Jackson**... Chicago Transit Authority officials consider being HIV positive as a disability. Don't get offended, chile, get even! Pick up your special reduced busfare card, good on regional transportation systems, too. Call 312-561-9661 for details... **MACT/Chicago** celebrated its 11th anniversary at the **Annex 3**. Miss Gay Wisconsin, **Echo Chambers** was MC for the show...**BWMT/DC** held its 11th Oct. 11 in Crystal City...**Triangle MACT** said hello to its fifth Nov. 1... N.Y.C.'s **Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee** sponsored a festivity even chewier than the group's name with it's \$12-a-plate Harvest Feast Nov. 15. Flyers for the event warned that the celebration was not to be confused with the European-American Thanksgiving holiday. 'scuse it!...Next stop: the conferences in Oakland, California!

MARK STUDNEY



The outside cover of greeting cards mailed to friends in December by black gay author Larry Duplechan and his lover Greg Harvey. Inside, the card read, "Thank you, Santa!" Hmmm. Who gave who what?

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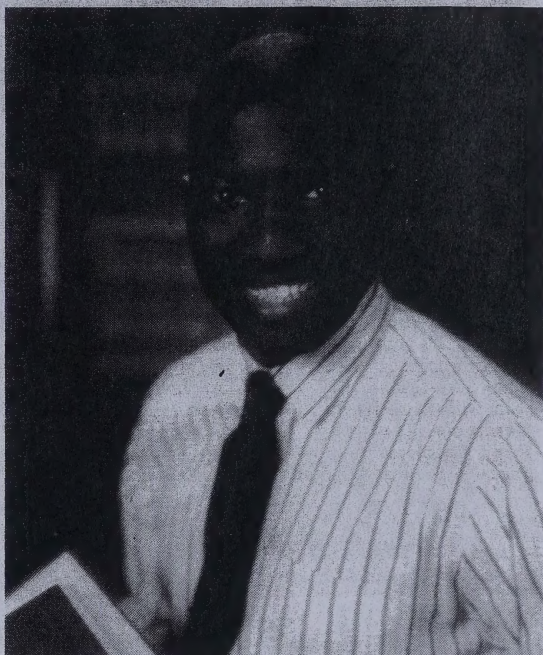
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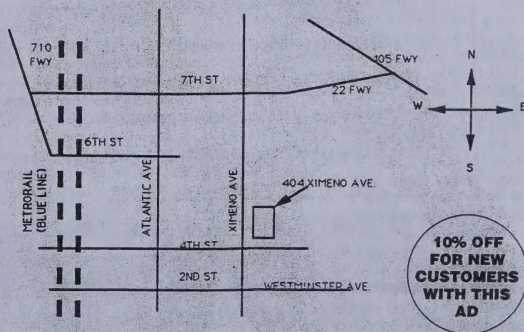
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers needed for face-casts, and for signature gathering. QueerNET/SF proudly announces that we have begun working on our very first public art project, entitled "The Faces of Discrimination." It will feature colorful plaster faces of people who have been fired for being queer. QueerNET/SF will display this work in a sidewalk visible window located at 1590 Market Street, in front of the offices of QueerNET/SF and of the Northern California Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Equality. The Coalition group is working towards placing an initiative on the California ballot banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, similar to the AB101 measure vetoed by Governor Wilson in September of 1991. QueerNET is looking for volunteers to cast their faces in plaster to help create this 3-dimensional art extravaganza. We would like this display to be as culturally diverse as possible, so tell all your queer friends. The Coalition is also looking for volunteers to gather signatures for the lesbian, gay and bisexual employment protection initiative (AB101). Get involved. Call our office or stop by at: QueerNET/SF, 1590 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. 415-252-5914. (35)

Attention musicians: drummer and bass player needed for progressive, recording male vocal group. Must be experienced in R&B, gospel, jazz. Also auditioning 1st tenors & bass vocalists. For more information call: 213-484-9558. (42)

Get your SAC card in months, not years. Find out how! SASE: Central Research, Box 3863, L.A., CA 90078. (34)

The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of NYC is looking for talented, hard-working and dedicated individuals to fill vacancies on its Board of Directors. In order to achieve the goal of an ethnically and racially diverse board, the Center particularly encourages applications from people of color. Directors perform a variety of volunteer functions, most importantly fundraising and policy making for the Center. Requirements for board membership include: willingness to fundraise; experience with other lesbian and gay, nonprofit, or community-based groups; and commitment to building an organization that reflects the diversity of our community. To apply, send a resume or letter outlining your work and community experience, and request an application form. Deadline for application: February 14, 1992. Two-year terms will begin in spring 1992. Send to: Board Search Committee, Attn: Paula Martinac, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th St., New York, NY 10011. (35)

For black or African-American gay and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will

enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (34)

Wanted: Issue 1 of Sierra Domino Newsletter. Photocopy ok. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (34)

Opportunity for financial freedom if you have the courage to call. 708-216-9719. 24 hour. (37)

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HIV/AIDS Anonymous Testing. Result while you wait! Open Quest Health Center, AHC Medical Clinic, non-profit community facility. 818-356-0027 or 213-664-5000. (35)

Sex therapy. 800-660-1428. (35)

Eddie Smith Hairstyling for men and women, 7115 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046 (1/2 block west of La Brea). 213-874-7210 work, 213-462-1220 home. Conditioning, coloring, relaxers, perms, jheri curls, hair extensions. Featuring Nexus products. Open Tuesday-Sunday. Call for an appointment. Your satisfaction in hair care. (TF)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (E)

ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Humanist? Atheist? Agnostic? The Gay and Lesbian Freethought Forum meets monthly. GLFF is also involved in education and actions. Info: GLFF, Box 15803, L.A., CA 90015 or 310-473-7302. (35)

Club F-Frottage. Multicultural social group for frottage men (rubbing). The Center. 208 W. 13th St., NYC. First Thursdays, 8 p.m. (35)

Lesbian soccer players wanted for multi-ethnic team. Gay Games 1994. 408-279-0874. (35)

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 619-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 619-475-4407. (36)

The West Indian Social Connection asks: "Would you like to get back to your roots?" Further information, call 213-962-6867 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and leave a message. (34)

Hairy men/admirers. Bears/trappers. Nation-wide explicit adslings. Infopak \$3.00. Hair, 59 W. 10th, NYC 10011. (35)

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. 140. (E)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accounting Manager. The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center is looking for a qualified Accounting Manager. The ideal candidate will possess an accounting degree, minimum 2 years supervisory experience, and four years as a staff accountant or higher. Thorough knowledge of computerized accounting packages and spread-sheet programs a must. Non-profit grant accounting experience a plus. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send a resume and cover letter to: GLCSC-Personnel, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (35)

Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (34)

African-American models over 18 wanted for all-male adult videos. Looking for at least one of the following: great body, gorgeous face or generous endowment. J/O only or participate with partner. Beginners OK. If you don't like the scene we shoot, or if you change your mind, we forget the whole thing. Have fun and make money. Call Scott Chandler at 213-338-9695, or send your picture to Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-388, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (34)

Bookkeeper. Gay Men of Color Consortium Outreach and Promotion of Services Project for AIDS prevention, education, and care seeks a bookkeeper to work

under supervision of the Controller for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Bookkeeper will maintain daily and quarterly fiscal records, prepare audit documentation and provide technical assistance to administrative staff. Applicant should hold an undergraduate degree in accounting or business, or have strong, relevant experience in the public and/or non-profit sector. Good record keeping skills and computer literacy is required. Please send cover letter and resume to: Gay Men of Color Consortium, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 1800 Argyle #304, Los Angeles, CA 90027, Attn: Elizabeth. 213-462-2273. (35)

Clinical Psychologist. 3+ years licensed, experienced only. Treat hospital patients and supervise 3 psychological assistants. Full time only. Exciting. Salary/benefits. 213-664-5000. (35)

Counselor. Qualified counselors needed immediately. Experienced and/or appropriate education. Generous compensation. Call 818-356-0027. (34)

Curator. The 1992 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival seeks a guest curator for lesbian/women's programming. This is a temporary part-time training/skill-building position that offers a stipend of \$3,000. Qualified candidate should have knowledge of contemporary lesbian film/video and possess strong administrative skills. Experience with other film festivals a definite plus. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter to: Frameline Curator, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. EOE. (34)

Distribution assistant. Frameline, a non-profit lesbian/gay film and video organization, seeks a part-time distribution assistant. Responsibilities include booking films, distributing press kits, invoicing, shipping, accounts receivable, correspondence, answering telephone inquiries and maintaining client contacts. 20 hours per week. Salary \$10-12K DOE. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter ASAP to Frameline Distribution Assistant, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. EOE. (34)

Grassroots Organizer. Proven organizer needed for National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Work at state and local level in the areas of civil rights, sodomy repeal, military and anti-gay/lesbian violence. Salary range \$28,000-35,000 plus generous benefits. Cover letter and resume by Feb. 21 to: NGLTF, Attn: Grassroots Organizer Search, 1734 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009. An EEO. (35)

Houseman. Young, honest, hard-working houseman wanted by retired professional single man in Palm Springs for part-time job: four hours per day to clean house, care for yard and pool. Small salary plus free use of separate one-bedroom fur-

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nished condo. Extra salary and possible full-time job if you have driving, cooking, massage or other skills. After six months I will pay for your books and tuition at local college if you want further education. References required. (35)

Interns. *Harper's Magazine* is accepting applications from college students and graduates for its internship program. Interns serve full time on an unpaid basis for three to five months and get practical experience in critical reading and analysis, research, fact-checking, and the general workings of a national magazine. Each intern works with an editor on one section of the magazine, takes part in the creation of the *Harper's Index*, and is encouraged to generate ideas, read widely, and approach problems creatively. For further information and an application, call 212-614-6500. (35)

Medical/Clinical administrator. New clinic. Community clinic knowledge helpful. Manager/nursing background a plus. Knowledge of procedure mandatory. Experienced only. Computer experience. Motivated and organized. Don Levy, 213-259-5675. (34)

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Office manager. The Gathering Place. Daytime drop-in center for persons with HIV in South Central on Slauson. Full-time office manager with background in cross-cultural interactions, especially with persons with HIV. Computer literate, filing, record-keeping systems, oral and written skills. Call the Gathering Place at 213-295-2687 between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (34)

Physical therapist with Calif. license and biofeedback experience needed for new gay and lesbian medical clinic. Experience in hyperbaric medicine a plus. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Project Coordinator. Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, a Los Angeles-based non-profit agency, is currently seeking to fill the position of Project Coordinator for its Gay Men of Color Consortium Outreach and Promotion of Services Project for AIDS prevention, education and care. The Project Coordinator will oversee the operation of all program components for the eight member consortium. The qualified applicant will also develop media strategies, act as link between consortium

members, public, private and community health organizations, and should also have fund raising and public relations skills. A college degree is desirable. However, individuals with relevant experience and a strong commitment to fighting AIDS/HIV among people of color are encouraged to apply. The annual salary for this position is \$24,000 (70% time). Please send cover letter and resume to: Phill Wilson, Gay Men of Color Consortium, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. 213-666-5495. (35)

Project Director. The San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS is accepting resumes for the position of Project Director for the Rafiki Services Project, a program to train volunteers to provide emotional and practical support to African Americans with HIV/AIDS. People of color, sexual minorities, women, disabled people and HIV infected people are encouraged to apply. For more information call 415-346-2364 or write to 1042 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94115. (35)

Psychologist. Part-time, per diem work offered to licensed clinical psychologist, experienced in individual and group therapy. Knowledge of chemical dependency disorders required. Therapeutic orientation compatible with 12-step and non-discriminatory programs, gay and lesbian sensitive. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Public Affairs Director. Direct media and activist programs for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. PR experience and excellent writing required. Resume to: GLAAD, 80 Varick St. #3E, NYC 10013. (34)

Sports Writer. BLK is looking for a neophyte or experienced journalist to cover sports in the black lesbian and gay community across the country. A major focus will be ongoing coverage of Gay Games '94. If you're willing to put in time for basically expenses only, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (34)

Trainer, AIDS Prevention Team. Salary \$22,000. Send resume and cover letter to Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

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Looking for roommate for a three bedroom house, 1½ bath, fireplace, washer/dryer, private room with telephone jack and wired for cable. \$400/mo., which includes utilities. Must have full time employment. For more information, call 213-274-6272. (34)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Front Room Theatre, Seattle's theatre by

and about lesbians, will be accepting scripts for consideration in January, February, and March of 1992. We are seeking scripts by lesbians, with lesbian character(s) and theme. We aim to produce two or three shows a season during '92 and '93, with at least one play per season by and about lesbians of color. We would also love to produce one or more musicals per season. Sharpen your pencils and limber up your word processors, sisters! For submission details, call 206-233-8457. Mail scripts to FRT, 1202 E. Pike #935, Seattle, WA 98122. (35)

Unpublished work wanted for anthology, "Snap! Black Gays and Lesbians Tell It!" Looking for quality and style on a n-y aspect of black gay and lesbian life: first-person essays, fiction (7 pages maximum double-spaced), interviews of non-celebrities (elders particularly desired). There will be no response without an SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) with adequate postage. Also, if possible, provide black and white photograph of yourself. Example topics: work, God, coming out, masturbation, fashion, language and music, food, Momma, houseparties, divas, bars, the streets and the news, dental dams, answering machines...life! Send to: Terri Jewell Box 23154, Lansing, MI 48909. (35)

Encyclopedia articles needed. Collier Books division of Macmillan Publishing has decided to bring out a \$20, 650-page trade paperback *Concise Encyclopedia of Homosexuality* for a mass readership. To be sold in every corner bookstore. This will be based on Garland Publications' 2-volume *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*, abridged, revised, and with the addition of new entries. I am looking for scholars interested in writing short pieces for the new work on areas in which they are or could become knowledgeable. The emphasis will be on basic facts, with some discussion of theories, but with a minimum of ideology and abstruse academic controversies; on language accessible to the average reader, and on topics of general rather than purely scholarly interest. Not only will new subjects be covered (we will especially need biographical entries on living people and geographical-historical entries on cities and countries), but replacements will be sought for some of the entries in the Garland work. I especially want to encourage women, bisexuals, and members of minority groups to contribute. Some suggested entry topics (new and replacements) include: African-Americans, Alvin Ailey, S.R. Delaney, interracial, B. Rustin, Bessie Smith (write for full list to date). If you are interested in submitting a new entry, or believe you can improve on any existing entry in the Garland volumes, please contact: Stephen Donaldson, Editor-in-Chief, CEOH, 3147 Broadway #12A, New York, NY 10027. 212-666-0344. (35)

Conference Paper submissions. "Making It Perfectly Queer," the second national

interdisciplinary graduate student conference on Lesbian and Gay Studies, will be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 2-4, 1992. Presentations should be 8-10 page long. People of color are encouraged to both submit proposals and attend the conference. Please submit 1-page proposals for paper by January 15, 1992, to: Cris Mayo, Department of Education Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 360 Education Bldg., 1310 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61801. (35)

Fiction, poetry, short dramas wanted. Anthology of creative writing by young gays, lesbians, and bisexuals seeks submissions. The anthology, *From Now On*, is committed to principles of balance: between men and women, among all races and ethnicities, and to artistic balance of genres, and will also consider previously published work. Send submissions with SASE and short bio to: Michael Lowenthal, Box A-164, Hanover, NH 03755. (35)

Essay contest. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Los Angeles, in support of Coming Out Day, October 11th, is sponsoring an essay contest for a first person account of a coming out experience. The coming out experience may be the writer's own or a significant person in their life, i.e. a sibling, parent or friend. The contest winners will receive cash awards of \$500, \$300, \$200 and will be announced at the PFLAG 16th year birthday party in May 1992. The contest is open to all Los Angeles County college students. People of color are encouraged to apply. For information call 213-373-4387 or write: PFLAG Essay Contest, Box 701, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. (35)

Looking for another L.L. Cool J., Queen Latifah, Markey Mark or Keith Sweat. Soliciting gay/queer-positive rap/industrial/ballads. Send demo tapes, lyric sheets to: Precipice Demos, 975 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131. (35)

Trashy (but well-written) black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new bimonthly magazine of black gay erotica. Tasteful work also accepted. Send us hot letters. Relive your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912(TF)

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Black ex-marine bodybuilder. Super hung, 21-year-old Cody Cherokee (see ad on inside back cover) has intimate photos available for sale. Send \$5 for nude sample plus catalog to Cherokee, Box 107, Miami, FL 33233. (35)

For the gentleman—handmade traditional, African designs. Write Ankh Enterprises, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Traditional African designs with an American flair. Handmade. Write ANKH Enterprises, African Clothiers, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

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Bad bold black man! For introductory set (10 men, 10 photos), send age (21+), signature, \$10 to Zebra Studios, Box 198271, Chicago, IL 60613. (38)

"Black Handfuls" features five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jackoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. \$29.95 plus \$3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (35)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: \$4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just \$15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femal Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

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The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (37)

Come relax and enjoy a professional full body massage by a caring young black male in a private, safe environment. Great massage, reasonable rates. Jack, 213-419-1145. (37)

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3589 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, \$40 in West Hollywood, \$? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (34)

DATING SERVICES

Women, 50-70, meet friends/lovers with similar profiles. Send SASE, your profile, \$5 to Seniors, Box 31703, Baltimore, MD 21207. (34)

Date by area code. Over 14,000 online talking personals. Direct contact or voice mailboxes. Rotary phones welcome. 1-

900-726-2040 (\$2 P/M). (35)

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. \$40/sex month. \$60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (E)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Ghanian lesbian, 22, wants penpal, all ages. Write Joan, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana. (37)

BGM seeking Bi/lesbian female for friendship. Box 32624, Long Beach, CA 40832. ♀ 1035. (36)

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. ♀ 145. (E)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

BGM, slightly chubby, cut, 23 yrs, 6'4½", closeted. You must be cut, hung 8+", masculine, muscular, single, tall (6'+), coffee-dark skin, age 25-40, HIV-/no AIDS unless celibate, like black gay porn. You must be in San Francisco, Washington D.C., L.A., or Texas area. Dele Alade, 88 Seymour Ave., Tottenham, London N17 9ED, England. (36)

GWM, 35, 5'9", 170#, attractive, masculine, blue eyes, dark blond hair, bearded, very friendly, humorous, intelligent, open-minded, seeks new friends, travel contacts or more? T.H., Box 39083, Pt. Grey R.P.O., Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P1, Canada. (36)

GWM, 25, seeks GBM, Box 500130, W-6, Frankfurt, Germany. (36)

GWM, 38, 5'10", 165#, athletic, hairy body, dark balding hair, green eyes, moustache, attractive, friendly, well-traveled, multilingual, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, hung, warm, sincere, straight-acting, Greek passive GBM for fun, friendship, visits. Other races welcome. Photo please. Altan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018, Paris, France. (36)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black

male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Black is sexy and that's what I love. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5, Canada. 604-263-9991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Fine black men wanted. Box 370171, Birmingham, AL 35237. (34)

Stocky brunettes wanted in Birmingham. MDC, 16th Ave., North Birmingham, AL 35204. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

GWM, 62, bottom, 1651 E. Glenn #117, Tucson 85719. ♀ 1019. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

White buns seek hung black stud who, like myself, is HIV-, drug free, sincere. Age, looks unimportant. I'm 5'8", 150, mature, live near Oakland. Box 5294, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (35)

My black playmate has moved away and I need to suck black dick on regular basis. Am WM, goodlooking, fit, HIV-. Your place, some weekdays OK. Write Box 3271, Daly City, CA 94015. (35)

GWM, 40s, 6', 180#, HIV+, 8", blond, blue, wants GBM into kinky imaginative scenes, making love, exhibitionism, voyeurism, nasty letters, phone sex, open. Write 1800 Market St #230, San Francisco, CA 94102. (35)

Goodlooking, shy, built, country, home-bodied GWM: in touch with his feminine Yin seeks company with his opposite, masculine Yang. Be a strong, loving, gentle, macho top male, black or white. Reply with photo and letter to: Occupant, Box 422693, San Francisco, CA 94142. ♀ 1047. (35)

TV wanted. Tony, 5337 College #516, Oakland, CA 94618. ♀ 1000. (35)

Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, C-7-110, Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (35)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Lets talk. Louis, 415-474-5377. (36)

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. ♀ 1045. ♀ 141. (35)

San Diego Area

Mature, professional, fun-loving GBM, 28, seeks similar GWM or Latino. Mike B., 619-297-0467 or Box 3658, San Diego, 92163. (36)

Free fone J/O submissive seeks domina-

tor. 619-292-1922. (36)

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 30, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-521-1341. (40)

Latin professional male seeks masculine top, sincere, honest, non-bar type, no drugs, vices, non-smoker, desires quality long-lasting relationship. 619-295-4531. (35)

You: Hot top GBM. Me: Young Latino. 619-274-0507. (35)

Hot, desert toman (GWM): masculine, oversexed stud! "Mac," 619-343-1220. (36)

Handsome, healthy, discreet sexually-young 60 Italian Bi/GWM, GRP/FRA bot, seeks sincere, mature 55+, Bi/GWM top for friendship? Serious replies w/pix/photo answered promptly. Ben, Box 249, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. ♀ 1040. (35)

BiBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

WM, 53, 5'9", 170, leather love, Zeff, ♀ 3101. (35)

37-year-old blond, 37, 160#, 5'11". William ♀ 3113. (35)

Very attractive GWM, 28, 5'10", 175, bribe, looking to meet extremely heavyset black guys (300# +) for really hot times and friendship. Jose Acasovo, 837 Appelby, Venice, CA 90291. ♀ 1019. (35)

GWM likes to service black studs with nice firm butts. Sit on my face. Get down and dirty and humiliate me with your manhood. POB 86651, LA, CA 90086. Grunk! (35)

White male, 50s, 6', 179#, seeks relationship. Very affectionate, HIV-. Call Will 818-362-2022, or write Box 1252, San Fernando, CA 91340. (35)

Handsome, educated, successful mulatto, 35, 6'1", 180#, seeks young, gorgeous mulatto playmate/companion. Healthy body a must. Muscles, hung, under 25 a plus. Quality not quantity. 310-301-1666. (35)

Attractive, muscular, European, smart guy, 31, 5'10", 175#, uncut, seeks tall, very muscular and massive, black or white, intelligent bodybuilder over 200 lbs. for body worship, friendship. 213-656-2942. (35)

Yo, this is J.D., BGM, 5'6", 135#, 40. I need a workout buddy that is taller and bigger, who is prepared for anything in and out of weightroom. I am into feet; size 12 or bigger is a +. ♀ 1052. (37)

Masculine GBM. Handsome, nice build, 31, 6', 190#. Independent, fun loving and affectionate. Seeking possible relationship. You: 5'9" or taller, nice build, independent

Respond to ads with a ✉ by mail. All mail is forwarded **FREE**.

Write the ✉ number on the outside of your envelope and send it to:
BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

and seeking same. Call Ryan. ✉ 100137
GWM, 30s, 5'9", 135#, wide-ranging interests, intellectual, musical, versatile and affectionate, seeks men (esp. of color) for friends who enjoy hot, prolonged intimate sessions. ✉ 3024. (37)

Attractive BGM, 28, 6', 182#, enjoys reading, tennis, and the wild thing. If you have a good ass, call me. Kevin. ✉ 3026. (37)

Latino, 31, 6', 185#, looking for GBM 35-45, small built, into raunch S/M, spit, W/S. Please call, sir. 818-284-0770. (35)

Friends, mixed couples, wanted by black/Mexican couple, midforties, for friendship and fun. We enjoy all kinds of movies that could be interchanged. Your picture gets ours. Box 19543, LAX, CA 90019-0543. (35)

My name is Jarvis: BGM, 40, 5'8", 140#. Don't be fooled by my size and age. I work out seriously. Prof. Hobbies: photography, art, philosophical discourse. Ex-and current military guys are a plus. I want a friend who balances intellectual pursuits with physical fitness. ✉ 3027. (37)

An attractive Middle-Eastern guy, 34, 5'9", 150#, black hair, brown eyes, light-brown skin, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candid, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or latino guy who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (35)

BGM interested in meeting other BGM or LGM for fun and friendship. Must be into safer sex. I am 6'1", 185#. I am a Top sexually. Let me hear from you. ✉ 3031. (37)

GBM seeking other GBMs who know what they want in a big bottom. I'm 6'4", 208# and loaded for action. If you're a die-hard top man, don't hesitate to give me a call. I'll serve you right. ✉ 3066. (37)

Black man interested in meeting other third world black men for mutual friendship and more. Your photo gets mine. Box 18A255, Los Angeles, CA 90018. (35)

I'm black male, 33. Looking for WM 33-40 for movie and dinner. ✉ 3038. (37)

Built WM, 33, 160#, G/P, masculine yet desire classic feminine role: nurturing homelife, cooking, cleaning, panties, etc., seeks macho black topman who is confident, affectionate and happy. ✉ 158. (35)

Sexy, down to earth, attractive 30 yr old GBM bodybuilder seeks masculine, well built brother that's not fem or on drugs. I am seeking a possible relationship or strong friendship. I enjoy bodybuilding, movies and travelling. ✉ 3028. (37)

BGM, 30, 5'11", 150#, into sports, bicycling, travelling, seeks one to one relationship with masculine topman, any race. ✉ 3106. (37)

GBM, 26, AIDS activist, writer, poet, loves independent films, art films, reading, art galleries and music. 5'6", 120#, nice swim-

mer's body. Loves intelligent conversation over quirky meals. ✉ 3030. (37)

Very goodlooking BGM, 27, 6'1", 175, 9½", seeks the perfect bottom for movies, dinner and fun. You should definitely know how to enjoy what I have to give. ✉ 3025. (37)

If you're BLK and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim: 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (35)

GWM, handsome senior, top, needs to be body-worshipped, submissive OK. Wet tongue, big mouth under 50, any race. No J.O., action only. Be prepared. Give phone # before 10 p.m.: 310-657-2804. (35)

Looking for someone special to start a relationship with. Am sincere, loving, peaceful male 39, 5'8", slim, black. Enjoy concerts, movies, plays, candlelight dinners. Seek sexually versatile male any race (especially Latino) over 30. Alex. ✉ 3102. (37)

Attractive, black male, 41, 6'2", 195 lbs. Okay, that's the physical side. Also am professional, successful (so they tell me), intelligent, a good listener, and fun to be around. Enjoy music, working out (no, not bodybuilding, just working out), movies, eating in good restaurants, stimulating conversation, and long romantic nights. You are attractive, black male, with most of the above qualities (age is not a factor ...there are mature 26-year-olds, and there are also 35-year-old teenagers). If you are seriously looking for an interesting, stimulating and romantic companion, please write and send a photo with your phone number. The good times are waiting. ✉ 1027. ✉ 148. (36)

Venice Beach. Half-Japanese male seeks seriously sincere relationship-oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 310-399-2953. ✉ 3100. (34)

Sexy, 6', blond, blue eyes, swimmer's bod, wants to meet well-equipped GBM for fun. Gary, 714-494-4790. (35)

BM to BM, 30-40+. Let's float, let's glide as inside you I ride. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. ✉ 1030. (34)

GWM seeks BGM. Me: goodlooking, 6'4", 205 lbs., big dick into AA recovery, gym. HIV+. You: tall, black guy with real big cock into finding a relationship/lover. Joe. ✉ 1022. ✉ 149. (37)

Baldwin Hills GWM seeking masculine sex buddies. 213-294-4739. (36)

GBM, 40s, 5'10", 145, seeks hairy, hung, black males or black Hispanics. No fats, fems. Photos a plus. ✉ 1020. ✉ 151. (35)

Looking for that special someone? Me: 5'9", 156, BRN/BLK, outgoing and looking for fun. You: 25 and over, medium to husky build, Latino or black, honest, discreet and special. Call Ron, 213-256-6833. (35)

Attractive GWM, 44, 6', 185, hairy-chested, moustached, professional, easy-going,

sensual, healthy, versatile, oral-seeks very muscular (bodybuilder a plus), black male for regular mutually satisfying meetings. 213-433-9712 before 10 p.m. (36)

Quality black male wanted 30 y/o white male, 6'2", 175, muscular defined body, tan, healthy, HIV-, hung, mostly bottom but versatile. You must be over 5'8", 180, dark, smooth skin, mostly top, HIV-, muscular and big legs a plus, no attitude and self-sufficient a must! Mostly interested in developing a relationship, but will consider "dates." Include picture, phone #, and interests and I will respond to all. ✉ 1025. ✉ 152. (34)

Handsome, 29 year old East Coast Italian, 6', 180#, straight act and appearance wants to meet football-player-type, beefy, black man, healthy, aggressive and versatile for fun and friendship. ✉ 1023. ✉ 153. (34)

BM, 41, 5'10", 165, wants relationship. Call 818-891-2186. (36)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (34)

Attractive GBM, seeks tall, handsome GWM. 213-852-0219. (36)

WM, beefy, BB, 38, Masc, 6'2", 220 lbs, 46C, 17A, 33W, big thighs, humpy butt, bottom seeks tall, hefty, hung, black tops only over 40, 200 lbs dominate masc, prof. Send # to Box 17106, Irvine, CA 92713. (35)

Prof. BBM seeks TV/TS for serious relationship. Oriental a plus, but open, P/P or no answer. J. Williams, Box 1891, L.A., CA 90078. (35)

This very attractive brown skin male, 30, 5'10", 150 lbs. seeks a brown skin overly attractive uncult HIV+ pretty boy, 21-27. Call Chris 213-487-3471. Read this ad twice before you call. (37)

Friend wanted by health conscience, financially secure, handsome black professional, 32, 6', 175lbs. Above all, you should have similar characteristics, be straight-acting, goal-oriented, aware of world events, and capable of intelligent conversation. Race is not important. ✉ 146. (34)

BGM, HIV+, 30, SAG, kind, loving, warm personality, wheelchair bound, speech impaired, seeking a BGM, with similar qualities and seriously interested in me. Call Mark at 213-756-5975. Serious calls only! No call after 11 p.m. (36)

GBM, 30, 5'7", 170 lbs., smooth, aerobics, nice body, race unimportant, prefer straight acting, HIV-, good sense of humor, adventurous and mature period. Glendale, CA. Pictures answered first. ✉ 1036. ✉ 147. (35)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex, 818-896-8890. Blond wants to please you. (34)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant muscular dominate man. 818-765-5132. (36)

BM, HIV- like older WM friends. 2322 Redondo Blvd., L.A. 90016. (35)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant (top)/masculine GBM, well endowed, 6'2" or taller, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, Bid Whist, and Spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey 213-508-6220, leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (35)

Lets rub until we cum. 213-852-0219. Arian. (35)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+ sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Satisfies loving. HIV- dad. Box 5950-243, Orange 92667. (35)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce, 310-338-9695. (TF)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (36)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

GWM 30 yrs, quiet type, seeks GBM 25 yrs. ✉ 1008. ✉ 157. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

BM, 25, 6'2", 200, masculine, top, seeks masculine GM. No fems/fats. Letter/photo to Boxholder, Old State House P.O., Box 230020, Hartford, CT 06123-0020. ✉ 1001. (35)

GWM, 24, attractive, professional, stable, seeks similar GBM for friendship. Box 79, Groton, CT 06340. (36)

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

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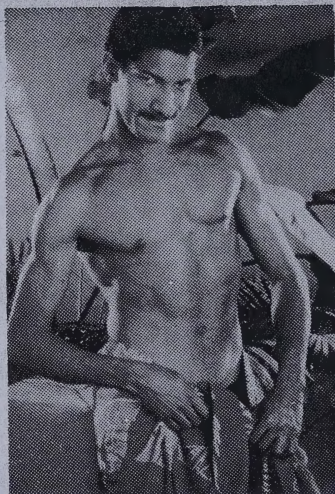
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LORENZO is just one example of the men you will find inside every issue of **HOMBRES**.

Men of Color Phone Personals

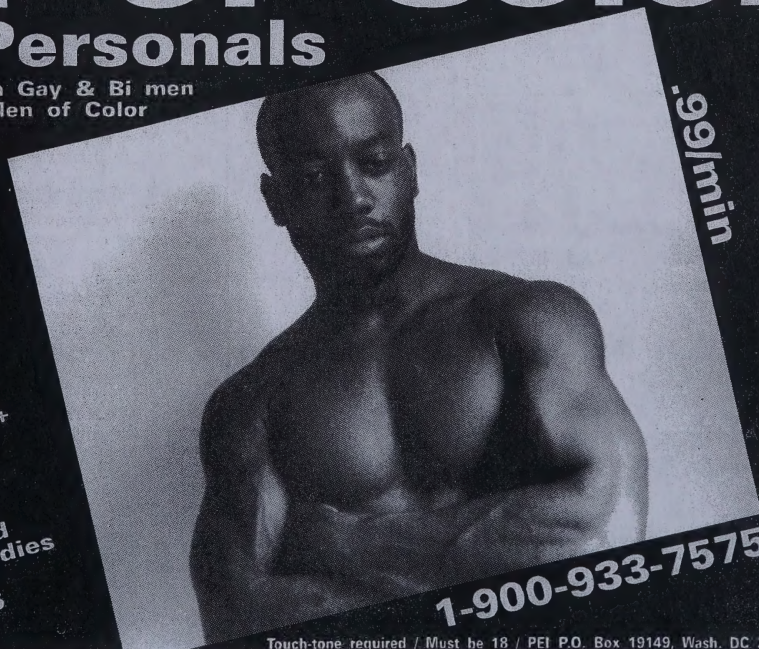
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MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

GWM, 42, look early 30s, good looking super nice guy, seeks black males 18-45 for friendship and goodtimes. Well worth the time it takes to write, so please do. Joe, Box 152943, Tampa, FL 33684. (36)

Blk/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 144, mature, educated, affectionate, seeks non-smoking men of similar age and any race. John, Box 2354, Winter Haven, FL 33883. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

Blond/blue, handsome, endowed professional seeks young, affectionate Afro-American. Military/visitors welcome. Rick, 808-924-3761. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Masculine, hung GBM. POB 10630, Chicago, IL 60610-0630. (35)

J.C. Jr., handsome G/blk/M, seeks pleasure. Write 1607 S. Sawyer, Chicago, IL 60623. (35)

Black masculine male bottom, 50, 5'7", 170#, 34" waist, seeks white or Asian top. Must be masculine and well hung. Tall and/or into active/passive butt licking. Write: Bob, Box 87744, Chicago, IL 60640. (37)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., attractive, athletic, tight body, masculine, versatile seeks GBM for safe fun and more. 312-327-4895. (36)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29 years old, 8½" and thick. Seeks black or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

GBM, 36, Christian, desires GWM friendship. CEP, 425 Connecticut St. #302, Gary, IN 46402. (34)

GWM, 27, blond, blue eyes, honest, caring, loving, romantic. Answer all letters. Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter and photo to: Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, Louisiana 70175. All replies answered. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

Upwardly mobile GBM seeks nubile Nubian for loving, man to man relationship. Dancers and football players welcome. Please wear spandex to tryouts. Paul: 617-427-5922, late nights or messages. (35)

GWM, 29, 6'1", 190#, seeks hairy and/or hung BM tops coming to Boston for hot sexual encounters or letter exchange. Tim, Box 718, Sudbury, MA 01776. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Down-to-earth, 51-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM who is interested in a meaningful relationship. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim or muscular build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo to ☐ 154 or call 301-779-6738 (evenings/weekends). (36)

It could be you! Would like to meet the right person for the right time. Johnny T, Box 56, Temple Hills, MD 20757. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

Muscular, hot, GBM, 6'1", 200#, 22 yrs, hazel eyes, light brown skin, 32" waist, very good looking, lots of fun and in great shape, versatile with many interests, looking for fun, friendship, correspondence, and possibly a relationship with other sincere, attractive, well built, intelligent, good natured, sexy BM or Latin guys all over. Guys who are hairy, muscular and/or taller than 6' are a definite plus but not necessary. No fats/fems. Write me and let's see what we come up with. Robert Scott II, 9223 Prest, Detroit, MI 48228-2207. (36)

WM, 32, 5'7", 155#, would like to meet BM for wild and freaky times. I am into leather and have a bubble butt. You must also! Possibilities for a relationship. No J/O calls. 313-527-2965. (35)

Yo baby yo baby yo. Puerto Rican black male top wants black Puerto Rican/Latino/Arab/Mexican men, bottoms. Fun, friendship, homeboy love. Later man. Let's get busy. Yeh! Jeff. ☐ 1013. ☐ 155. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Marion Saint-Truss, Unit 28, #68702, Parchman, MS 38738. (35)

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NE

GWM searching GBM. Versatile body-builder. 190+ and 6'0"+. Boxholder, 2211

Jones #3F, Omaha, NE 68102-3017.

(35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

Together blackman, "In the Life" sought by GWM 37, 5'11", 210, affectionate, loyal, healthy, non-drinker, tobacco use, professional, sense of humor, happy, intelligent, and reasonably good looking. You: GBM 30s/40s with similar qualities. I am more interested in what's between your ears than between your legs. I am looking for the following in a potential friend/life-mate: willing to risk love, no hard drugs/booze, clean, open-minded, honest, non-angry, emotionally stable, demonstrative, real, educated, employed/employable with mostly similar interests: science, technology, art, real estate, reading (sci-fi to Joseph Beam) music (Motown to disco), movies, dogs, home life, old cars, dinners out, cooking, socializing, not a barfly or size-queen, in search of a long-term relationship (my last was with GBM, 10 years), romance, travel (S.F., etc.), massage, general safe sex. You should, if we click, be willing and able to live in this occasionally bigoted and culturally isolated city of Reno, Nevada. Please no hustlers, con, sex, bisexuals, confused, mental cases, attitude, one night stands, violence, or emotional instability or those without the willingness or ability to contribute 50/50 in building a relationship, these need not fill my P.O. Box. Your phone # or letter will get my reply. Bill A., Box 9201, Reno, NV 89507-9998. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, prof, clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occu-pant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Puerto Rican, 51, 5'7", 180#, brown skin, hot, horny, submissive. Looking for top black men, with huge cocks, to please them. Write to: Emilio Cruz, Box 1574, Bronx, NY 10451-1574. (35)

You down with O.P.P.? BiBM, 24, 6', 160#, seeks funky-fresh B-boys 18-25 to chill with. Write Box 20983, NYC, 10129-0093. Peace. (35)

Muscular, hard runner's build, versatile, HIV, hot, hung, smooth, upbeat, professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoys outdoors, fitness, arts, work, romance, humor, travel seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited, GBM, 30-48, any location. Share best of country and city. Fun/friendship, maybe relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Ulica, NY 13504. ☐ 1007. (35)

Attractive white male, 33, 6'3", 175 lbs. professional, seeks black guy, indepen-

dent, good-looking, creative and a real communicator, available for friendship and dating. ☐ 3099. ☐ 150. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Attractive BM, 25, seeks gay lover. De-Wayne Guynes #179-432, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (36)

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Educated BGM seeking same. J.W.D., 1629 Riverside Dr. #29, Tulsa, OK 74119. (37)

-Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SD

GWM, 41, HIV-, seeks black men of all ages for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TN

GWM, 47, looking for hung toman for playmate. Race unimportant. Honesty is. Carl Cannady, 414A E. Old Hickory Blvd., Madison, TN 37115. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship, love and more. Call or write Dennis Seay, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

GWM, HIV+, 60 yr, masculine, average ht and wt, live in DC area, seeking GBM under 40, top or bottom, non-obese, for friendship and possible one-on-one relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. ☐ 1005. (37)

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

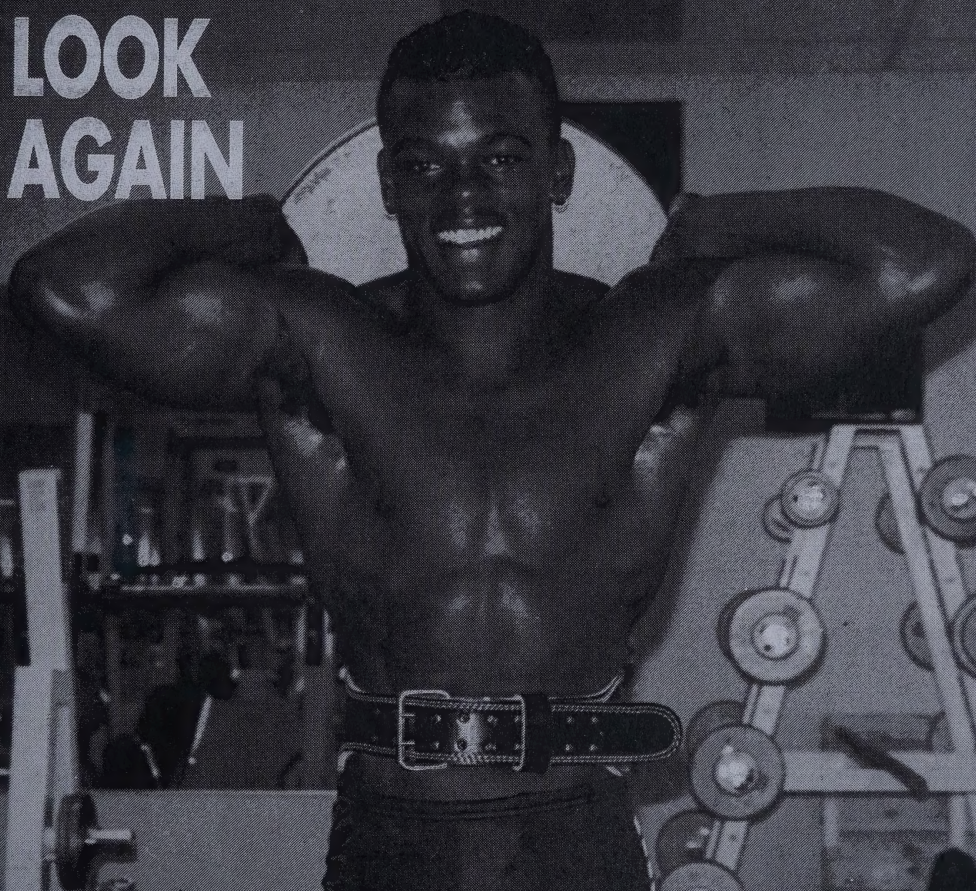
GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)



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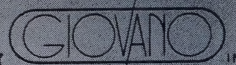
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